

New Mission News

COMFORTING THE AFFLICTED AND AFFLICTING THE COMFORTABLE SINCE 1980 · NOVEMBER 2000



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Tuesday November 21st: 8AM - 10PM
Wednesday November 22nd: 8AM - 10PM
Thursday November 23rd
Thanksgiving Day
CLOSED
Cerramos el día de
Acción de Gracias

Events Calendar

Fair Trade Coffee Campaign
for "Just Java"

Sunday November 5th @ 1PM

Speakers: Rosario Castellon, native of
Nigaraqua & director of Producer Relations
for Equal Exchange.

Deborah James, the Fair Trade Director of
Global Exchange.

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Productos de la temporada

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Pomegranates/Granadas
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My name is Janeen Johnson and my flat on Bryant Street between 23rd and 24th is the first place that has felt like home in a long time. I have lived there with three other friends for 5 1/2 years and we are involved in a very difficult eviction process.

On August 15, I received a letter from our new landlord, Maria Leone. After purchasing the property in March, she served the family downstairs with an owner move-in eviction and they left several months ago. They had lived there for 22 years. Claiming that her sister is moving to San Francisco from Florida, she turned her attention to us.

The letter gave us 28 days to move out. There was no way we could be prepared to leave by September 13. My roommates were traveling for the summer and they weren't even home to get the news. To make things worse, we are all students and a new semester was just about to begin.

I talked to Maria before and after we got the letter, but she didn't say a word about the eviction. It was my goal to work things out and just ask for more time, at least through the end of our new semester. She claimed that much time was too inconvenient for her.

Right away I went to the Tenants Union and Rent Board. After getting our notice on August 15, Maria's attorney sent a follow-up letter with the order to move out in 28 days. The law gives tenants 30 days to move out. Unfortunately, their letter was upheld due to a technicality because the attorney's letter was filed on August 13.

Four days before we even got the eviction notice, I went to a capital improvement hearing. Maria presented four claims, detailing expenses she was trying to pass on to us as tenants.

Because she didn't supply enough evidence that we should pay for lead and environmental asbestos inspections, the judge rejected two of them. She was able to charge us for repairing the roof and changing padlocks around the house.

Our next step was to file an unlawful eviction notice with the Rent Board. We charged Maria with four counts, the first for only giving us 28 days notice.

The second charge is that upon evicting our neighbors, she has three months to finish renovations and move in. Her grace period ends November 1, and there is no sign of her occupying the unit. The third claim is that this is a retaliatory eviction. It came only two days after two of her four claims were rejected at the capital improvement hearing.

She is also in violation of a law stating that tenants being evicted must receive \$1,000 for relocation expenses. \$500 is supposed to be paid up front, when the eviction notice is served. One of us got a real check and the other three only got copies. One week later, we finally got certified letters with our checks.

In late September, we went to another hearing to dispute how we were summonsed. The law states that each person is supposed to be served separately and directly. We received one summons with all of our names that was slipped through the front door mail slot.

Our motion was denied. The person that delivered the summons claimed that he gave it to someone directly. His description of that person didn't match any of us. As of September 13,

To the Egress

First Person

we were officially charged with trespassing in our own home.

The four claims filed with the Rent Board are still pending. The Rent Board is understaffed and backed up, and we are waiting to find out if our landlord responded. If the next judgement is against us, we'll have five days to leave or face forceful eviction by the Sheriff's Department.

The reality is that we'll have to leave here. We just needed more time because we're all students and working part-time. It's been hard to juggle school, work, and handling this eviction while trying to make enough money to move. I don't know how any of us will be able to afford to stay in the City. I've even had to sacrifice school and part of my academic program due to missed classes.

I want to put the word out and let



Janeen Johnson (seated right) with soon to ex-roommates Sheila Hernandez and Indira Suganda. Photo by Gary Stenger

other people know that there are a lot of great resources available. We've gotten support from friends and organizations like the Tenant's Union, The Rent Board, St. Peter's Housing, and Eviction Defense

Collaborative. It takes a lot of time to file papers, make phone calls and handle paperwork. The law has too many financial barriers, in addition to the strain on time and emotions.

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4. NOB HILL (CHICKEN)	11.75	15.75	17.35
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6. PACIFIC HEIGHTS (ALL MEAT)	13.50	16.85	19.95
7. SAN FRANCISCO	10.85	13.45	17.10
8. HAWAIIAN SPECIAL	9.95	12.90	14.10
9. ATHENS BY NIGHT (GREEK)	12.10	14.75	17.10
10. VALENCIA SPECIAL	11.85	13.85	15.85

PIZZAS

PLAIN CHEESE	7.95	9.95	12.05
1 TOPPING	8.75	11.15	13.35
2 TOPPINGS	9.85	12.35	14.80
3 TOPPINGS	10.55	13.55	16.25
EACH ADDITIONAL TOPPING	.70	1.00	1.40

TOPPINGS

Salami • Pepperoni • Sausage • Ground Beef • Ham • Canadian Bacon
Olives • Garlic • Zucchini • Fresh Spinach • Fresh Tomato • Onion • Pesto
Baby Clams • Chicken • Anchovies • Shrimp • Feta Cheese • Bell Peppers
Mushroom • Roasted Red Bell Peppers • Jalapeño • Pineapple • Artichoke

PASTA

SPAGHETTI BOLOGNESE	7.75
CHEESE RAVIOLI	8.65
RAVIOLI MEATSAUCE	8.95
ANGEL-HAIR POMORODE	7.65
FETTUCINI ALFREDO	8.75
FETTUCINI PESTO	8.75
FRUTTI DI MARE	10.65
CHICKEN FETTUCINI	9.85
LASAGNA BOLOGNESE	8.95
VEGETARIAN LASAGNA	8.75
LINGUINI CLAMS	9.95
STUFFED MANICOTTI	8.85
TORTELLINI FLORENTINI	9.65

ENTREES

RED SNAPPER	9.65
GRILLED SALMON	10.25
PRAWNS SAUTÉ	11.25
FRIED PRAWNS	9.85
CHICKEN MARSALA	9.75
CHICKEN PARMIGIANA	9.95
CHICKEN PICATA	10.95
MARINATED GRILLED CHICKEN	8.25
CHICKEN SCALOPPINI	10.95
PEPPERCORN STEAK	12.50
NEW YORK STEAK	11.95

APPETIZERS

MOZZARELLA STICKS	4.50
BUFFALO WINGS	4.85
FRIED CALAMARI	6.25
GARLIC BREAD	2.25

SALADS

CAESAR SALAD	5.95
HOUSE SALAD	3.75
GRILLED CHICKEN CAESAR SALAD	6.75
SHRIMP SALAD	6.25

RISOTTO

CHICKEN RISOTTO	8.20
Diced chicken with mushrooms, carrots, onions and herbs in rice	
RISOTTO DI FRESCO	7.50
Fresh vegetables in a primavera sauce and rice	
RISOTTO DE CARNE	8.20
Steak strips with mushrooms, onions & herbs in rice	
SEAFOOD RISOTTO	8.85

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ENDORSEMENTS

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DISTRICT

9

MISSION

**BERNAL HEIGHTS
SAINT MARY'S PARK****Carlos Petroni**
SupervisorDISTRICT
EXCELSIOR, OUTER MISSION
INGLESIDE, CROCKER AMAZON**11****Maria Dolores Rinaldi**
School Board**Chris Finn, Abel Mouton and Erin Brown**
Community College Board**NO on K****YES on L****RALPH NADER**
FOR PRESIDENT**PROGRESSIVE LEFT SLATE**Immigrant Rights Movement (MDI) - Socialist Alternative -
San Francisco Frontlines Newspaper - Justice Newspaper -
Vietnamese Residents' Association - Pilipinos for Affirmative Action
- Immigrant Pride Day Committee - Latino Tenants Association

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Paid for by the SF No on N Committee, FPFC #1228271. Don Nolte, Treasurer

Thursday, November 2, 2000
San Francisco, CA**Día de los Muertos**

A Spiritual Procession Celebrating the Cycle of Life

Thursday, November 2, 2000 7:00 pm at 24th & Bryant in the Mission District.
Altars will be displayed at Garfield Park at 25th Street between Treat &
Harrison. Ethereal beats by the 2nd Age crew.
for more information: (415) 864-1450Special
Thanks:SF WEEKLY, SAN FRANCISCO ARTS COMMISSION,
FELONIOUS, MISSION MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION,
RECLAIMING COLLECTIVE, ZAZA DANCE TROUPE,
NEW MISSION NEWS, MISSION POLICE, AND THE SUPPORT OF LOCAL ARTISTS

ORANGEAGE, AT THE BART STATION, BART STATION.COM, MISSION COMMUNITY

**Muertos Happenings****Día de los Muertos Procession**, Thursday, November 2 begins at 24th & Bryant at 7pm. For details call 864-1450**"Day of the Dead in the Mission"** - Día de los Muertos art exhibition runs October 16- November 2. Day of the Dead Celebration November 1 & 2 at 6pm with lighting of the candles, blessing of the altar, pan dulce and chocolate. Artbeat Gallery 3226 21st Street. Call 648-3721**Death and Rebirth** - A special Día de los Muertos celebration in honor of passed muralists, with a tribute to graffiti pioneer Dream. Refreshments and live music. November 2, 7pm-midnight at the Precita Eyes Mural Center 2981 24th Street. Call 285-2287 for more information.**La Ultima Parada: An exhibition of 27 traditional Día de los Muertos altars**- Reception November 2 at 7pm. Show runs through November 31. Mission Cultural center 2868 Mission Street. Call 821-1155 for mor information.**Community Celebration November 2** - Makeup artist Nancy Obregon designs your skull face in the style of Posada at 6pm Bring a candle for the lighting of the community altar at 7pm. Encantada Gallery 908 Valencia. Call 642-3939**Community Procession with Instituto Familiar de La Raza** - Friday, November 3 at 6pm starting at 2919 Mission (near 25th). Bring candles. call 647-4141 ext. 700 for more information.**Mussorgsky's Dance of the Dead** - And other pieces will be performed at the

Presbyterian Church at 23rd and Capp on Saturday, November 4 at 4pm, free. call 647-2015 for more information.

Chicanos en Mictlán: Día de los Muertos in California - The Mexican Museum, Fort Mason Center, Bldg. D. Runs through December 31. Free.**Death and Memory: Mexico's Día de los Muertos Altar Exhibit** - Museum of Craft and Folk Art, Bldg. A, Fort Mason Center. Runs through November 26. Call (415) 775-0990.**Window for the Dead: Youth Explorations of Death** - Exhibit by RAP Students. Opening Reception Saturday, October 21, 1-3pm. Galería de la Raza, 2857 - 24th St. (at Bryant). Free. Runs through November 4. Call (415) 826-8009.**Papel Picado: Family Sunday Workshop with Carmen Lomas Garza**, Sunday, November 12, 1-3pm, Room 260, Bldg. C, Fort Mason Center. Free.**Labyrinth of Cultures/ Laberinto de las Culturas** - Exhibit/Installation curated by René Yañez. Opening Reception October 12, 6-10pm. Runs through November 2. SOMARTS. Labyrinth open Tuesdays - Sundays, 12 noon-4pm. Free. Call (415) 552-1770, ext. 350. **Schoolhouse of Spirits/ Escuela de los Espíritus** - Special Area for children and adults. Papier maché, painting, and paper cutting workshops; learn about Day of the Dead traditions; create and display artworks; write letters to departed loved ones. Call (415) 552-2131, ext. 111.

New Mission News Election Endorsesments

President: Ralph Nader

Nader offers a genuine alternative to the bought-and-paid-for candidates of the Democrats and Republicans. The argument that a vote for Nader is just a vote for Bush is wrong, especially in California, where Gore will win handily and get all the electoral votes (the only ones that count) regardless of a big turnout for Nader.

If Nader gets enough votes, the Green Party qualifies for federal matching campaign funds, and the possibility of a competitive third party becomes much more likely. This is a lot more exciting than the possibility of a Gore presidency. On the other hand, the prospect of forever voting for the lesser of two evils is more alarming than that of four years of George Bush II.

Senate: Medea Benjamin

Another Green Party candidate and another genuine choice.

Congress: Nancy Pelosi

She hasn't done anything terrible lately.

State Assembly: Carole Migden

Migden has consistently delivered for her district. She's a smart and hard working member of the Assembly with a delightfully acid sense of humor.



SF Board of Supervisors, District 6: Chris Daly

Daly has moved from long shot to contender status without altering a basic message of social and economic justice. It's heartening that in a city now totally dominated by greed and exploitation someone expressing such adamant support of renters, small businesses, and all those left out of the new prosperity should be so close to a win, especially in a district where development is most rampant.

SF Board of Supervisors, District 9: Tom Ammiano

It seems as if Tom Ammiano has been the point man for every progressive cause in the last decade. He has taken more than a few hits and been the object of numerous smears in the process. He has not sold out to monied interests or become insufferably arrogant, as would have many in his position. Although he faces some light opposi-

tion, none of the challengers has made a convincing case that they would do a better job.

Board of Education: Jill Wynns, Eric Mar, Maricio Vela and Mark Sanchez

Wynns was the only School Board member to stand up to Ex-Superintendent Bill Rojas, whose profligate spending and overpaid administrators brought the district to near ruin. Incumbent Wynns, along with Mar and Vela, is endorsed by the teachers' union, the United Educators of San Francisco. Sanchez has campaigned heavily for higher teacher pay. It is critically important that teachers regain some semblance of empowerment and something approaching adequate compensation. That is best guaranteed by the election of these candidates.

Community College Board: Chris Finn, Erin Brown, Christine Gaddi, Able Mouton

Face it: when you see the names of College Board candidates on the ballot, you haven't got a clue who these people are. Three of the candidates, Finn, Mouton and Erin Brown, Propose replacing the present College Board with one "composed and elected by students, faculty and staff" - in other words, with people who can make intelligent decisions about how the college should be run. A fourth candidate, Christine Gaddi, had a good track record of activism when she was a community college student.

Bart Director: Tom Radulovich

At a time when transportation is becoming a critical issue for the Bay Area, it's good to have an accessible and pro-active person in a position usually occupied by political hacks. Radulovich deserves a large measure of credit for facilitating the redesign of the miserable 16th Street, and the (soon) slightly less miserable, 24th Street Bart Plazas, and for this alone he deserves your vote.

CITY PROPOSITIONS

Proposition A, Library Bonds: Yes

Libraries and their maintenance are one of the things for which the public must periodically shell out money. This is earthquake country and some of the branch libraries need a retrofit, some need to be brought up to code, and others made handicapped-accessible.

One note of caution: the track record of previous library bond projects is mixed.

The Main Branch design was seriously flawed and the building still lacks shelf space to accommodate all the books; but the Mission Branch benefited enormously from its rehab, completed on schedule in 1999. Any public construction project needs watching, but that's why we have a library commission.

Proposition B, District Aide for Supervisors: No

When we switch to a district supervisor system, our district representatives will have a lot less to do than they did when all The City's woes were their concern. This charter amendment would in effect permanently extend a 1997 ordinance that gave each supervisor a third staffer. Given the supervisors' reduced area of responsibility, two should do.

Proposition C, City Worker Benefits: Yes

This Proposition would correct an inequity in The City's retirement system, which gives higher pension payments to those hired before November 2, 1976, than to those hired after. This Proposition simply equalizes the benefits and brings The City's pension allotments on a par with those of other Bay Area cities.

Proposition D, The Children's Fund: Yes

In 1991, voters approved dedicating 2 1/2 % of The City's annual Property tax revenues to children's services. Since then, those funds have been essential to the continuation and growth of nearly 200 programs and services for children. If it had not been for this guaranteed funding, the interests of youth and children would have had to compete every year with all the special interests that want a piece of the municipal pie - not a fair match up.

This charter amendment would continue the Children's Fund to 2016, and raise the percentage of Property tax paid in to 3%, as well as set up a Citizen's Advisory Committee and allow for the creation of three year spending plans. Proposition D makes a good law better.

Proposition E, Retired Employee Health Benefits: Yes

Retired city employees living on pension currently receive less in health care benefits than active city employees do. As a result they are being squeezed by rising medical costs, and, in some cases, can no longer afford adequate health care. Proposition E provides them with benefits equivalent to those received by active employees.

Proposition F, Saturday closing of Kennedy Drive: Yes

Proposition G, Political Pandering by Michael Yaki: No

Proposition F closes the eastern portion of

Kennedy Drive in Golden Gate Park to automobile traffic on Saturdays and holidays, and directs the Recreation and Parks Commission to promote alternative transportation to park attractions, and to increase disabled parking. It was placed on the ballot by a petition drive supported by 18,000 voters.

Proposition G would delay any such closures until a new parking garage is built in the museum area of the park. It was a vote-pandering ploy by Supervisor Yaki (running in District 1, adjacent to Golden Gate Park), who, along with five other supes, put it on the ballot. It is high time that San Francisco considered alternative means of transportation - not just in Golden Gate Park but throughout The City.

Eastern Kennedy Drive is currently closed on Sundays with no ill effects. Opponents of Proposition F claim there will be all kinds of horrible traffic and parking problems in surrounding neighborhoods. That won't happen: once people realize they can't drive through the park, they will seek alternative transportation.

Pacbell Park was built with far less parking capacity than stadium capacity. This fact was well publicized in advance, and, as a result, most fans don't drive: for some sold-out games, the parking lot isn't even full. Real parking and traffic problems will begin once the parking facility is open and acts as an automobile magnet, attracting more cars than it can accommodate.

Proposition H, Pass through Cost Controls: Yes

Proposition H restricts the type and amount of costs a landlord incurs on work done on rental Property that can be passed onto tenants in the form of higher rents. Seismic work is specifically exempted.

Landlord organizations give the usual end-of-life-as-we-know it arguments against Prop. H. They claim the same dire consequences - Property abandonment and neglect - with which they've tried to scare voters every time some form of rent control has been up for a vote. These doom scenarios have never come to pass. It is; however, a fact that pass throughs as they stand now have been a major factor in San Francisco's soaring rents and the consequent displacement of long-term tenants.

Pass throughs, rather than a legitimate means to recover expenses, are being used more and more frequently as a weapon to drive seniors and low income tenants from their homes, and to reap enormous profits in the overheated real estate market. Rent increases are a pain in the butt, use Proposition H.

Continued on Page 6.

Back to the Picture

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Proposition I, Business tax change: No

The City lost a suit brought by Kodak and some other major corporations, who claimed San Francisco's business tax structure was unconstitutional. The case is being appealed. In the meantime, Mayor Brown, with no public input, placed Prop I on the ballot, in an attempt to stave off more wrathful corporate litigation. It shifts the tax burden off corporate fat cats and onto employee-heavy middle-sized enterprises, such as restaurants and retail shops, by eliminating the gross receipt tax and increasing the payroll tax. George W. Bush would love it.

Proposition J, Influence Peddling Control: Yes

This Proposition puts a comfortable ethical distance between city officials and those to whom they grant contracts, leases, tax breaks or other public goodies. Once an official has granted such a consideration to a contractor, the official cannot accept campaign donations, a job, or gifts from that contractor until two years after leaving office, or six years after the public benefit was bestowed - whichever comes first. This is a basic good government move that stops a little bit of the wholesale corruption that now pervades city affairs.

Proposition K, Fake Development Controls: NO WAY!

Proposition K is a fraud. The mayor has admitted he put it on the ballot solely to combat the real growth-control initiative, Prop L. This is borne out by the fact there has not been any "Yes on K" campaign to speak of, but there has been a "rock 'em, sock 'em" campaign against Proposition L. In his State of The City address, Mayor Brown never mentioned Prop K, nor, in a meeting with the Mission Merchants Association less than a month before the election, did Emilio Cruz. Cruz is on a leave of absence from the Mayor's Office of Economic Development for the specific purpose of getting K passed. It must be an embarrassing job.

Prop K Proposes to establish a development "czar" (a King of the Cronies) with poorly defined duties, who would be appointed by the Mayor to serve a 10-year term, thus extending Willie Brown's influence on city policy well beyond the end of his tenure in office. Prop K does raise the mitigation fees paid by developers for childcare and affordable housing, but the Mayor could do that at any time without new legislation, and Brown has admitted that the fee raise was added to Prop K merely as a gimmick to make it more sellable to voters.

On the entire issue of live/work development, which is simply stealth office development, Prop K says nothing. By moving up the date by 10 months for the annual allocation of permitted office space, Proposition K actually creates a growth surge of millions of square feet.

Proposition K Proposes no real solutions to the desire of developers to mutate the Mission into a luxury rat warren of lofts, offices and Starbucks franchises. Instead, a two year moratorium turns the Mission into a Christmas turkey, slow roasting on a spit, to be devoured after the moratorium is lifted - a year before Brown leaves office. This is his honor's final act of retribution against a community that has so consistently defied him.

Proposition L, Balanced Growth: Yes

Proposition L attempts to slow the rate of commercial development, so that the city's infrastructure, especially transportation and affordable housing, can grow apace, and the city's neighborhoods remain economically and environmentally livable. This addresses the fact that the root cause

of San Francisco's housing crisis has been the creation of jobs far in excess of the construction of housing. Prop. L's intent is to restore the balance.

Proposition L's ban on office development in much of the Mission permanently protects the neighborhood (unless the voters decide otherwise in another election) from becoming an extension of downtown. Ill conceived projects like the Bryant Square office complex would be illegal. Live/work units would be classified as housing, making live/work developers liable for the same mitigation fees as other housing developers, and subject to the same building regulations. Conversion of these units to offices would be prohibited. Prop. L reclassifies the workplaces of multimedia companies as offices and places them under the annual limit for office construction.

The net effect of Proposition L will be to keep the Mission from being an unaffordable, homogeneous and unlivable neighborhood. (The astonishing takeover of the Mission by runaway office development is graphically demonstrated by a recent study, as reported on page10).

Proposition M, Cab Company Power Grab: No

Currently law, a voter-approved 1978 initiative requires cab permits to be issued only to individuals, not to companies-a good deal for drivers, but not for the big cab companies. For the last two decades, the companies have come up with one trick after another to get the permits back. Proposition M, which they are bankrolling big time, is their latest gambit. It puts forth a number of service improvements, which sound appealing to anybody who has ever had trouble getting a cab. All of these goodies, with one exception, could be enacted by the existing Taxi Commission. The exception is the so-called "fleet permit," which would be issued to companies and not individual drivers. This is what the companies are after, all the rest is smoke and mirrors.

Proposition N, Closing Condo Conversion Loopholes: Yes

You don't need to read a newspaper to know that a wave of evictions is rapidly transforming this neighborhood. A walk down any residential street in the Mission provides ample evidence of massive displacement. Opponents of Prop. N claim all this upheaval is just a natural and positive result of market forces, but market forces are getting a hell of a lot of enhancement from the greedy. While the end result is positive for the bank accounts of a few, it is negative for the lives of everyone else. Professional landlords and real estate speculators who want to cash in on the housing crisis are, by hook or by crook (mostly the latter), emptying rental buildings of tenants and then placing the individual units up for sale as tenancies in common.

By using the Ellis Act to remove Properties from the rental market, intimidating recent immigrants and others unfamiliar with their rights, and demanding huge rent increases in the form of "pass throughs" for "improvements" (see Proposition H), a massive campaign is afoot to force long-term tenants out of their homes and, in most cases, out of the city. Vacated units are being marketed at exorbitant prices as tenancies in common to cash-drunk dot-yuppies, who, in today's mercurial economy, may move out in a year or two anyway, further destabilizing the neighborhood. This is a neutron bomb, which wipes out a community's population while leaving the ever-so-valuable real estate intact.

If Proposition N passes, these kinds of tenancies in common would be defined as

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condominium conversions and be subject to the annual limit of 200 per year. This would, in effect, end the obscene profitability now driving the eviction machine and decimating the city's residential neighborhoods. If you are a renter, vote "yes" or you may be next. If you care about living in a stable, diversified community, vote "yes" before yours disappears.

Proposition O, Campaign Finance Reform: Yes

This is a good step towards limiting the corrupting influence of money on political life. Prop. O takes the first modest steps towards publicly financed campaigns by providing financing to supervisorial, candidates who limit their campaign spending to \$75,000 in the general and \$20,000 in the runoff election. It limits the amount a candidate for supervisor can loan to his campaign, and places a cap on the amount an individual or group can contribute.

Most importantly, it puts a \$500 limit on an individual's contributions to (soft money) independent expenditure committees for supervisorial campaigns. Unrestricted independent committees are a common way of dodging campaign-spending limits. Now that supervisors are elected by district, it is vital that Prop. O be passed to prevent districts from being bought up by the carpetbagging rich and their pawn candidates.

Proposition P, Hunters Point Clean-Up: Yes

The Navy is in the process of transferring its badly polluted Hunters Point Shipyard to the city. The Navy would like to get off the hook on some of the toxic clean-up, and turn over land which federal regulations declare unfit for housing. Prop. P would make it city policy that the Navy adheres to the highest clean-up standards, so that the transferred Property could be used to meet San Francisco's dire housing crisis.

Proposition Q, Pedestrian Safety Fund: Yes

Prop. Q would create a pedestrian safety fund that would make improvements to crosswalks, such as countdown clocks, better lighting and high visibility signs. It's a move in the right direction in a time of increasing pedestrian fatalities.

Opposition to this measure comes from those who say it's just Mabel Teng's way of sucking up to voters-but, of course, everything put on the ballot by politicians is some form of sucking up. It's better they suck up to us rather than-unlikely as that may be-get ideas of their own.

Proposition R, Pier 45: Yes

Recently, the Port Commission voted to put a for-profit theme park, including a faux Haight-Ashbury circa 1966, at Pier 45. Many people were appalled at the prospect and, as a result, Supervisors Ammiano, Leno, Newsom and Bierman put Prop. R on the ballot. Prop. R makes it city policy that the space be used for a public educational facility operated by a nonprofit organization. Enough of the waterfront is occupied by pricey, private-enterprise tourist traps. This is an opportunity to save a small piece of it for public use.

STATE PROPOSITIONS

Proposition 32, Veterans' Bonds: Yes

When you put people in a position where they can be sent, or actually are sent, to places where they will be gassed, shot at, bombed and put in the path of various mayhem, there is an ongoing responsibility to those who survive the experience.

Case in point, this \$500 million home and farm aid bond for veterans.

Proposition 33, Lawmakers Retirement: Yes

Most of our legislators are dolts, but they should be able to participate in the state employees' retirement system just like all the other state employees. And they will, if this measure passes.

Proposition 34, Campaign Spending: No

The League of Women Voters adamantly opposes this obvious electoral deception. In 1996, the voters approved Proposition 208, which imposed real spending limits. The fat cats challenged it in court and won, but both sides expect

Prop. 208 to be upheld on appeal. To defend against that day, special interests put Proposition 34, a much weaker measure, on the ballot, so that, as the last measure approved by the voters, it would cancel Prop. 208's stronger provisions on campaign financing.

Proposition 35, Public Works Projects: No

For over 60 years, competitive bidding requirements have protected the state's public works projects against meddling by politicians and their cronies. Every few years, there's an attempt to overturn this sage policy and let the hogs run through the turnip patch. Proposition 35 is the latest example.

Proposition 36, Drug Treatment: Yes

Either we can let the War on Drugs continue to erode the Bill of Rights with draconian laws, or we can adopt measures, such as this one, which mandate treatment, not incarceration, for possession, use, or transportation of controlled substances.

Proposition 37, Polluter Protection: No

This measure would benefit polluting corporations by requiring a 2/3 vote of the State Legislature or local electorate every time the state or a city or a county wanted to impose a fine or mitigation requirements on companies damaging the environment. Prop. 37 would also shelter the alcohol and tobacco industries from fines and mitigation requirements for the societal and public health damage done by their products.

Proposition 38, Private School Vouchers: No

Subsidizing parents to the tune of \$4000 per child to put their kids in private schools doesn't address the problems of public schools. It is a way of simply abandoning the tough issues surrounding public education. It also gives taxpayer money to schools unregulated by elected school boards and not subject to teacher credentialing requirements.

Proposition 39, School Bond Changes: Yes

Since 1978, local school districts have needed a 2/3 majority to get school bonds for facility repair and upgrade passed. Not surprisingly, many districts cannot afford to maintain their buildings properly or build new classrooms. Proposition 39 would allow school bonds to pass if approved by 55% of a district's voters, and contains provisions for annual fiscal and performance audits. Without Prop. 39, the physical condition of local schools will continue to decline and classrooms will remain overcrowded.

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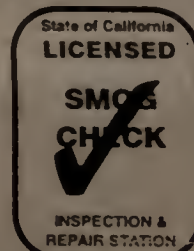
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STATE PROPOSITIONS

Prop. 32 - No Recom.
Prop. 33 - NO
Prop. 34 - NO NO NO
Prop. 35 - NO
Prop. 36 - YES YES YES
Prop. 37 - NO NO NO
Prop. 38 - NO NO NO
Prop. 39 - YES

LOCAL PROPOSITIONS

A - No Recom.
B - YES
C - YES
D - YES
E - YES
F - YES YES YES
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H - YES YES YES
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Silicon Satan



It is both sad and ironic that so much hatred has been leveled at Andrew Beebe, the energetic and visionary young co-founder of Bigstep.com. Do the Mission's mean-spirited activists not realize how deeply he feels the pain of the poor and downtrodden, how closely he identifies with their struggle?

A recent article in the *Wall Street Journal* mentioned his support for the anti-Apartheid movement while at Dartmouth, but overlooked the full extent of his commitment to social justice, which is quite legendary in Ivy League circles. For who could forget the brave stand which this sensitive young man took against buying Coors beer for the Sigma Phi Epsilon 10-Kegger Toga Bash? Or his uncompromising insistence that the sandwiches for the senior homecoming lawn party contain only dolphin-safe tuna? Or how he attended the All Sorority Black and White Ball Against Breast Cancer three years in a row—and never slipped so much as one Rohypnol in the punch?

With progressive credentials almost as impeccable as his breeding, Beebe surely deserves to be revered by our local activists as nothing less than a role model. Yet despite his many efforts to give back to the community—not least, a generous offer to have his junior employees pick up garbage from a Mission park—the resentful thugs of the Mission Anti-Displacement Coalition still seem intent on using The City's divisive permit process to drive his company out of the neighborhood.

For this proud heir to the mantel of Mandela is once again locked in a battle with the forces of Apartheid—a new “slow-growth” Apartheid, that would seek to deny Bigstep.com and our other corporate citizens the right to make their homes in the City's neighborhoods alongside the rest of the populace, instead segregating

them in dreary business parks and grim downtown office buildings, all too reminiscent of the “Bantustans” that were once the shame of South Africa.

Paradoxically enough, those of us who, like Beebe, every day experience hatred and prejudice in the Mission are ourselves victims of the very “gentrification” for which we are so unjustly reviled. For the high cost of living here has led to wage inflation, making it desperately difficult for our favorite restaurants to find waitstaff, unless, of course, they can afford the exorbitant sums which these tip-scrouring, dish-juggling, order-flubbing table-monkeys now see fit to demand.

As a result, we are often brutally inconvenienced: on a recent excursion to Butterfly—an exquisite new jazz club and bistro, whose wonderfully eclectic menu, with such exotic offerings as “Mahi Mahi and Lobster Mushu Fish Tacos” and “Hawaiian Style chili Relleno,” most cleverly references the Mission's colorful, multicultural past—it took more than half an hour for my food to arrive.

Clearly, then, the Mission's underclasses and their demagogues need to recognize that we are all in this together, and that intolerance, even when directed against one's socioeconomic superior, should never be condoned. And once they overcome all their petty-minded bigotries, they will surely come to terms with the changes which are taking place in the neighborhood, and find a measure of inner peace. For is not their fear of eviction and displacement itself based on nothing more than prejudice—the prejudice which so many San Franciscans still have against Oakland, Daly City and all the other fine communities which they will soon call home?

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Hidden Costs of the New Economy

Study shows impact of dot.com/loft boom on the Mission

By Tom Wetzel and Sheheryar Kaosji of the Mission Anti-Displacement Coalition

The Mission Anti-Displacement Coalition (MAC) recently conducted a study of the Northeast Mission Industrial Zone (NEMIZ). MAC organized volunteers from the community who walked the blocks to map the current uses. The results of our study show the rapid takeover of the NEMIZ for dot-com offices and expensive live/work housing.

The NEMIZ has historically been a key source of employment for the Mission District, especially blue-collar jobs in production, distribution, and repair industries. The NEMIZ also became an important source of affordable spaces for arts uses in San Francisco.

But without strict new land use controls, these uses will soon become extinct in the NEMIZ.

Growth Prior to the Dot-Com Boom

During the 1970s and 1980s the NEMIZ lost many of its traditional manufacturing operations, punctuated by the closure of the Best Foods mayonnaise factory in 1990. Despite perceptions of the area as a rust belt wasteland, many new businesses were moving in. A study by the Mission Economic Development Association (MEDA) in 1991 showed a dramatic rise in a wide variety of service businesses and arts-related uses. San Francisco residents held more than 70% of the 7,500 jobs in the NEMIZ, and 20% of the job-holders were Mission District residents. The history of the NEMIZ as an area devoted to industrial uses meant that land prices and rents were lower than in more intensively developed commercial areas. By the late 1990s, the rise of live/work and dot-com office development would radically change this picture.

The Rise of Live/Work

The "live/work" saga dates from the fight over the eviction of the artists from the Goodman Building in the early 1980s. This eventually led to passage in 1988 of the "live/work" ordinance modeled on existing efforts to adapt industrial buildings, like Project Artaud in a former American Can factory.

By the mid-1990s, a number of developers, associated with the Residential Builders Association, began using the live/work ordinance to produce housing that was not intended for artists, or even for work.

Under the live/work ordinance these luxury lofts were technically not housing. This meant that they were exempt from the requirement that 10% of the units should be affordable, and avoided the school fees for residential construction.

Because of these exemptions, the construction of 540 "live/work" units in the NEMIZ means the city has 45 fewer affordable housing units. To build these affordable housing units would cost over \$11 million today. The exemption from paying school fees has also cost the city \$959,000 in lost revenue.

Also, because these exemptions made live/work construction so profitable, it became a force for displacement of existing land uses.

Protecting the Industrial Zones?

These trends in live/work development provoked an uproar. A 1999 Planning Department study noted that the live/work boom posed a serious threat to production, distribution, and repair (PDR) businesses by increasing the competition for scarce industrial real estate. The Planning

Department report showed that these jobs were vital to the city's economy because they provided services that other segments of the city's economy rely upon.

As a result, the city adopted a series of interim controls governing development in the Industrial Protection Zones aimed at prohibiting developers from displacing PDR activities.

In fact, the controls on live/work in the industrial zones have not been properly enforced. Moreover, the interim controls did not address the impact of dot-com office development, which exerts powerful upward pressure on land values and rents, leading to the displacement of existing businesses.

The MAC study found that since 1991 the proportion of the terrain in the NEMIZ devoted to live/work, high-tech and multimedia office development has exploded - over 937,000 square feet of terrain has been taken over for these uses. This represents an increase of 330% since 1991. (See maps.)

About one-sixth of the businesses present in the NEMIZ in 1991 (more than five dozen businesses) are now gone. In general, the sites formerly occupied by these businesses are now devoted to live/work or dot-com offices. The most infamous example are the businesses and artists evicted from Bryant Square.

The city has now allowed over 1.25 million square feet of office space to emerge in the NEMIZ. This office development has generally occurred without reimbursing the city. The city has lost approximately: * \$7.8 million lost in affordable housing fees. (This is equivalent to about 31 affordable housing units.) * \$700,000 in lost childcare fees.

The total financial cost to the city from both live/work and high-tech office development in the NEMIZ is over \$22.6 million. The takeover of land in the NEMIZ has diminished the city's ability to maintain a diverse economy and diverse employment options.

Multi-media and high-tech industries have requirements for credentials or job backgrounds that are not a good fit for many residents of the Mission community. About three-fourths of the people working in this sector in San Francisco have college degrees. By comparison, less than half the Mission's adult (25 years or older) population has had any college education, and about half the adult Latino population of the Mission have not graduated from high school.

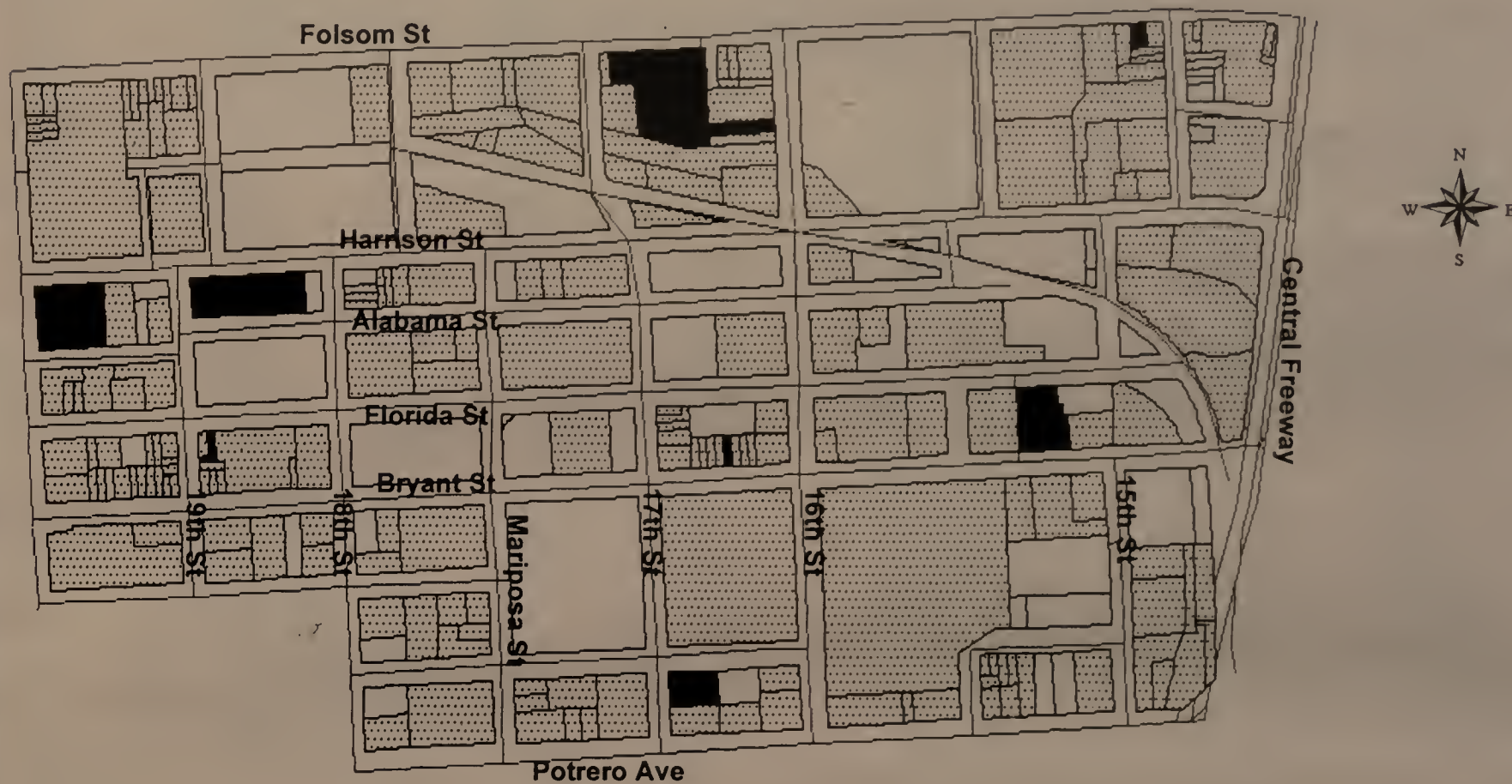
If a welder or sewing machine operator loses his or her job, they are not likely to be hired as a Java programmer or website developer next week.




More Cars Flood Our Streets

The emergence of dot-com office development in the NEMIZ also has adverse environmental impacts. The transit infrastructure does not exist to support a clone of downtown in the NEMIZ.

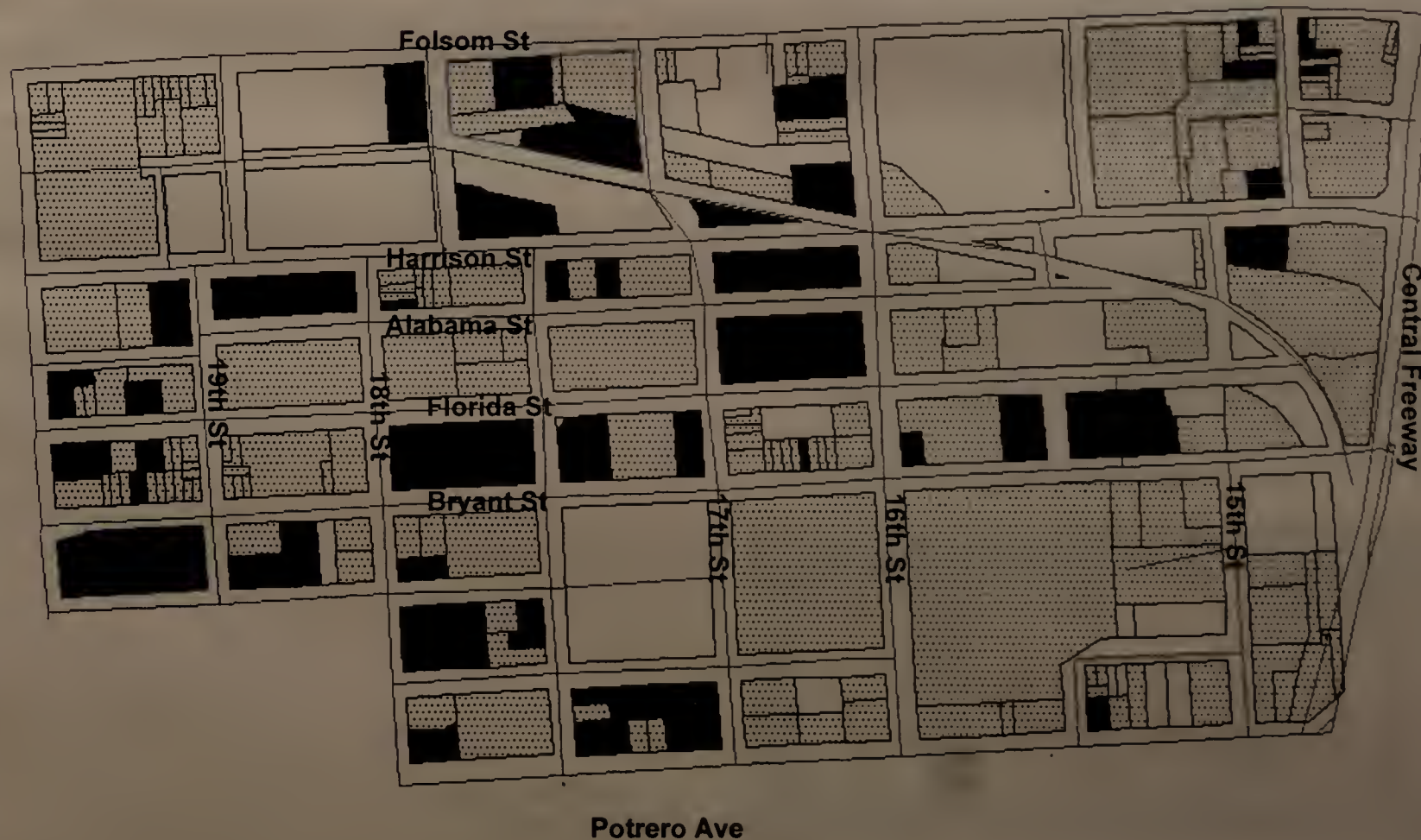
The Environmental Impact Report for the Bryant Square development projected a rate of automobile commuting that is more than 40% higher than the city-wide average of employed residents driving to work. An effect of allowing high-tech office development in the NEMIZ is to pump higher levels of automobile traffic into one of the most pedestrian-oriented communities in California, generating higher levels of emissions and making the streets less safe for pedestrians and bicyclists.




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Planning Commission quashes public comment

Commentary by Judy West

The SF Planning Commission introduced and approved October 19 a change to the rules by which the commission hearings are run, which moves the time allotted for Public Comment to the end of the hearing instead of at the beginning. The Public Comment period is there for members of the public to speak on issues of a "general nature", as opposed to a specific item scheduled that day for discussion.

In the last few months the Public Comment period has provided one of the few opportunities for Mission activists to voice their outrage at the abuses of the planning codes perpetrated in industrial districts like the Northeast Mission regarding live/work and office development. Groups like the Mission Anti-displacement Coalition have repeatedly organized large groups of people to speak at the weekly hearings, with comments overwhelmingly critical of the Commission and sometimes even hostile. One such Public Comment period resulted in the removal by force of one speaker at the request of Commission President Theoharis.

President Theoharis justified the rule change as an attempt to minimize the impact on projects scheduled to be heard during the regular calendar which follows Public Comment, and which have been delayed hours on some occasions. Joe O'Donoghue, head of the powerful, pro-development Residential Builders



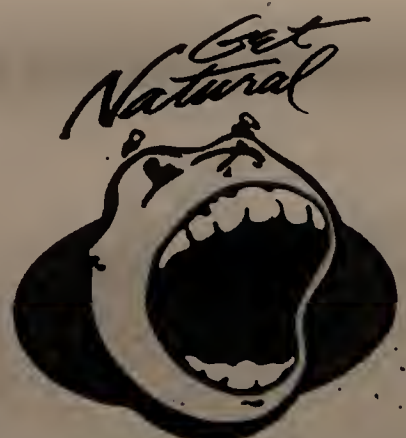
Association, said the issue before the commission was "caused by an abuse of the system, and a consequence of civil disobedience by political groupies following the direction of a few troublemakers. The Commission had no choice but to do something drastic".

All but a few speakers at the hearing voiced their outrage at this attempt to quiet the public criticism. Jeannene Przyblyski of the Collinwood Neighborhood Association articulated the issue well. "This is an attempt to squash the effective tactics of organizing press conferences on the steps of City Hall before the scheduled hearings, followed by passionate public testimony." When placed at the end of the hearing there is no way to anticipate at what time the Public Comment will be heard, since they can end anywhere from 5 to 11pm. So it is hard to get a strong turnout of speakers and essentially impossible to get press coverage of the action without a scheduled time.

One woman who spent hours in front of the Commission organizing an impressive assault on a proposed expansion of Sutro Tower said, "This entire effort is repugnant, offensive and disgusting." She routinely used the Public Comment period to update the Commission on her concerns and research about the structural integrity of the proposed antenna expansion, which eventually led to a much needed, careful review of the project. "I have researched the records and found there to be no evidence that this move to the end of the calendar is warranted," she added.

To diminish the ability of people to speak publicly to such a powerful commission is a breach of the public trust. A number of speakers testified about the important role Public Comment has had in bringing to the Commission's attention issues that might otherwise be brushed under the rug if only presented in a letter or phone call. While it is true that hearings for a few projects were delayed on a few occasions under the old rule, the net result of the change will be that an important conduit of input from the public will be lost.

In the end, the commission voted almost unanimously "to give the new rule a try" as Commissioner Beverly Mills described it. One of three new appointees, Commissioner Jim Salinas told the crowd, "People of color have always complained about the Commission meetings being in the middle of the day which is difficult for working people to attend." We shall see how many people of color start showing up for an unscheduled Public Comment at the end of the hearing session.



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LET THE PIMPS WALK

Three years ago, Oakland enacted a law allowing police to confiscate the cars of pimps and drug dealers. That program has been successful -- so successful, in fact, that the dregs of Oakland are now invading San Francisco neighborhoods to ply their evil trade. Many San Francisco neighborhoods have been turned into the living embodiment of a layer of Dante's *Inferno*. Marsha Upshur, a Hunter's Point resident, said the aggressive drug selling in her neighborhood, with violence and loitering in tandem, has forced her to "live in hell."

Recently, Supervisor Amos Brown, representing one of the areas most ravaged by pimps and dealers, District 10, which includes Ocean View and the Ingleside, tried to do something to stop the plague.

The Rev. Brown, in the immortal words from the movie *Network*, got mad as hell and said he wasn't going to take it anymore.

He introduced a bill at the Board of Supervisors to give San Franciscans the same protections Oakland gives to its good citizens -- legislation to allow the police to confiscate the cars of pimps and drug dealers polluting areas of The Mission, the Western Addition, Ocean View, Merced Heights and the Ingleside, Bayview-Hunter's Point, and gradually spreading to other neighborhoods.

The legislation was immediately opposed by Tom Ammiano and his followers who've never seen an arrest they didn't dislike.

Only two other members of the Ammiano-influenced Board had the intestinal fortitude to vote with Amos Brown -- Supervisor Mabel Teng and Supervisor Barbara Kaufman.

Both Supervisor Brown, in District 10, and Supervisor Teng, in

District 7, are running for re-election in November. Their districts, and San Francisco at large, need their voices on the Board.

Like most San Franciscans, we are in favor of a progressive approach toward first time drug offenders. The jails are already too full.

But we are not talking about first time drug users. We are talking here about predatory pimps and aggressive scumbag drug dealers operating openly on our city streets and ruining the quality of life in the neighborhoods.

They also prey on our children where they live. Listen to Ms. Martin, who lives near 17th and Shotwell in the Inner Mission. We need such a car seizure law to drive the pimps and their entourage away, she said, "so we can sleep at night, walk across street, stand in front of our homes to water our plants or walk with our children down the block to school without being approached by sex-seeking men."

How bad is it? It's become a crime commute:

"Pimps, prostitutes and narcotics dealers commute to San Francisco to play their trade rather than lose their vehicles in Oakland," said Captain Kevin Cashman of the San Francisco Police Department's vice squad.

With the pimps and the drug dealers comes crime and the disruption of ordinary neighborhood life. The statistics bear out Capt. Cashman: of 2,471 arrests of "Johns" picked up by police on city streets last year, almost 50 percent of them came from out of town.

In some of our neighborhoods, the parks have become no-go areas for kids. This is unacceptable.

Voting with Ammiano against the people of our neighborhoods were Supervisors Mark Leno and Leland Yee. Supervisors were pressured by

Ammiano—who as Board President gives out the perks—let these scum keep their fancy wheels. Ammiano doesn't have these bums on his block. And doesn't seem to care as this plague -on-wheels proliferates, unfettered into other neighborhoods.

Mayor Willie Brown enthusiastically backed Supervisor Brown's legislation to take the pimp-mobiles and drug-mobiles off our streets and let the pimps and dealers walk across the Bay.

Brown is supporting Supervisors like Teng and Brown for re-election to the Board -- while Ammiano is running a slate of like-minded candidates who, if elected to the Board, would

only be too happy to follow Chairman Ammiano's lead and let the pimps ride in style in your neighborhood.

Keep the pimps and drug dealers

out of the Marina.

Keep them out of the Sunset and Richmond and out of North Beach.

Keep them away from Potrero Hill and Bernal Heights and the Excelsior.

Keep them out of San Francisco.

As Supervisor Barbara Kaufman said: "The fundamental right is that you should be free to live free of prostitution and drug dealing"

We have to make up at the local level for an ineffective, misguided drug policy in Washington, D.C. When S. F. mothers are afraid to let their children play in front of their own houses -- forget about going to play in the parks, which is why so many areas have become playgrounds for drug dealers -- then action is a moral imperative.

Oakland has found the way -- San Francisco should confiscate the cars of the pimps and the drug dealers who commute here.

Let the pimps walk.

Oakland may have found the way, but San Francisco has still to muster the civic will to protect our neighborhoods -- and our spineless Board of Supervisors has to grow a backbone.



Pimps & Drug Dealers Must Be Swept Out Of Our Neighborhoods



Voting to Make the Pimps Flat Foot It Out of Town



Supervisor
Mabel Teng,
District 7



Supervisor
Barbara
Kaufman



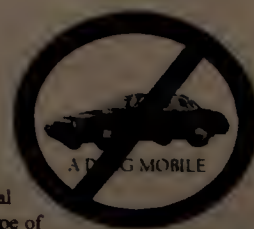
Supervisor
Amos Brown,
District 10

The Honorable Tom Ammiano
President of the Board of Supervisors
City Hall, 1 Carlton Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Save my Neighborhood From Drugs and Pimps!

My neighborhood needs to be saved from predatory pimps and drug dealers. Clean my streets of this type of garbage or I will clean up City Hall so that caring and true community driven candidates will make my neighborhood a safe place to live.

Name _____ Address: _____
Phone: _____ E-mail: _____





St. Peter's Housing Committee director Nick Pagoulatos. Photo by v e miller

When the Empire strikes out

Nick Pagoulatos and St. Peter's are fighting the dot-com deathstar

By Jen Taylor

Nick Pagoulatos might disagree with you if you called him Luke Skywalker, but he's the one who compares his mission to "Star Wars." As the new director of St. Peter's Housing Committee, Pagoulatos belongs to a small band of resisters fighting off the deathstar of San Francisco's new dot-com economy - working to keep a poor and mostly Spanish-speaking population off the streets in what is arguably the tightest housing market in the U.S.

As landlords use increasingly sophisticated tactics to evict working-class tenants in a gold rush to collect the highest rents in the country, tenants-rights activists like Pagoulatos might be feeling a bit discouraged. "Sure," he says, "you're talking about an housing activist community that doesn't even number into the hundreds and we're trying to fight off the center of the global economy rolling down right on top of us. It's a little bit like 'Star Wars.' We're living right next to a death star and we're trying to fight it off."

St. Peter's certainly is in the shadow of the enemy. The blocks around St. Peter's, at 474 Valencia at 16th Street, are a strange mish-mash of new and old businesses. Liquor stores, SRO hotels, taquerias, and used book stores that have been there for years are mixed in with a bevy of upscale restaurants and bars that cater to a younger, more monied class of newcomers to the city.

During the day, Spanish-speaking men and women shop at the Central American grocery store on the corner and do their banking at the check-cashing place across the street. But every night, the as a housing activist. "I don't have the sort of story where I grew up in poverty and that lit a fire under me and I had to find some way to change the conditions of my people," he says. But Spanish Harlem, like the Mission District, has traditionally been, as Pagoulatos points out, "where Spanish speaking people come and congregate, and if you're off the boat or across the border for the first time, it's where you go."

Pagoulatos could be working as a lawyer, but he's not, to the occasional chagrin of his mother. When he graduated from New College of Law a few years ago, he never even considered sitting for the bar. Why? "I look terrible in a suit," he jokes, but the answer to that question has more to do with what he learned about the practice of law than with fashion. And also with the mission that St. Peter's offered him.

He likes "to have a very direct connection with the people that I'm working with, and I always feel that once you are accepted into the bar [as a lawyer] and you have the big desk, you take part in the establishment. You put yourself above

everybody else. I like empowering people, giving them a sense that they can do something for themselves," and the court system, he implies, can take power away from people.

An empowering new project of St. Peter's is helping to organize tenants in specific buildings, tenants often living in a foreign culture who have no idea of their legal rights. By organizing their buildings, tenants can "get issues resolved in their building and show their landlord preemptively that they know their rights," says Pagoulatos. Such activism can not only preempt problems with landlords, but can also give tenants a pride in their surroundings and a sense of community that is streets are filled with luxury cars, the sidewalks with fashionably-dressed bon vivants; Midwestern transplants who get their bit of gritty realism from the man selling his sidewalk wares of old records and used clothing.

But how much longer before the lively flavor will have to be imported to the neighborhood? Pagoulatos observes that if the poor people, and the people of color, "don't have a place to live you might as well live in the suburbs ... because all the people who could afford to live here are the dot-com people. And how interesting a town is that?"

"Change is inevitable," he agrees, "but I think that the community is saying that it can't see change that takes us into consideration and doesn't displace us or rather integrates YOU into the existing community. It has to be change with a conscience." And it is heart breaking to watch one of the most colorful, interesting neighborhoods in the country blanch into blandness - morphing from taquerias to Taco Bells.

Pagoulatos can be elegiac about the subject: "once a culture or a business leaves, it's gone. Walking around the Mission is like walking through a museum - the exhibits will soon change." And more than just flavor, he adds, what is changing is basic habitability: "Service providers are forced out and the things moving in don't serve the community. These businesses don't speak the community's language and don't in any way serve the people living here."

Pagoulatos' youth in New York City's Spanish Harlem "wasn't that rough," and only indirectly affected his choice to work invaluable.

Does Pagoulatos think recent activism in the Mission helps the ordinary working people of the neighborhood? Oh, yes. He calls a new neighborhood coalition diverse and incredibly active, "A lot of the organizing we've been doing has been really positive. This is our community. This is our common space. And if we band together, that's the only way we're going to survive, and that's finally happening." Like Luke Skywalker, Pagoulatos hasn't given up.

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Rhythm and Motion also offers workouts and dance classes for adults and kids at the 1133 Mission St. Studio and other locations throughout the city. Classes include: W. African, Modern, Hip Hop, Brazilian, Swing, Tango, Jazz, Yoga, Flamenco and more.

Support Proposition A Save Your Branch Library

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Branch libraries need your help—to make them safe and accessible will require careful and sensitive renovation.

Proposition A provides the needed funds by selling \$106 million in bonds. Because bond measures require a two-thirds majority, **your vote is critical.**

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A Message from San Francisco's Public School Teachers and Paraprofessionals For An Honest, Responsible San Francisco School Board



Eric MAR • Jill WYNNS • Mauricio VELA

Change the School Board. Elect a new team to move the schools of San Francisco forward.

Jill WYNNS — A veteran of parent involvement and service on the School Board. She was the first to demand an end to the callous mismanagement of former Superintendent Bill Rojas.

Mauricio VELA — Director of the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center. He is a strong voice against school privatization and school vouchers. Mauricio is a parent of students in our schools.

Eric MAR — A lawyer involved in protecting the rights of newcomers. Eric is an instructor at San Francisco State University. He is married to a SFUSD teacher and is a new father of a daughter in the class of 2018.

It takes a team working together to bring change to the School Board. We believe that Jill Wynnns, Mauricio Vela, and Eric Mar are the team who can make the Board work honestly; openly and efficiently for our students and all of us.

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Shall Not Fade Away?

City scrambles to save arts groups. But is it in time?

By Joe Donohoe

At his annual State of the City address, Mayor Willie Brown announced "It's been a very, very good year. It's been a great year for San Francisco," to the Board of Supervisors and a host of others. The Mayor continued, "but it has not been a great year for a lot of people because of that old bugaboo of affordability."

Brown went on to address the crisis of housing for low-income residents, non-profit organizations and small arts organizations. The Mayor discussed some of the directions he was taking to ensure that San Francisco could "produce affordable space for all of its citizens."

What was being addressed was a crisis that has been all over the media, and the subject of numerous street actions, citizen action groups, and operatic Planning Commission meetings. Several studies have identified at least 85 arts organizations throughout San Francisco, many in the Mission, which are threatened with eviction in the next year. Advocates for and members of the art organizations and non-profit entities fear "cultural Darwinism" and what will happen if small non-profits are allowed to fend for themselves in the current economy.

Several interrelated proposals have emerged from various parties to subsidize art spaces. One such proposal instigated by Artists Eviction Defense Fund (AEDC), a loose coalition of artists and arts organizations would allocate \$1.5 million from the City's General Fund to help ensure the survival of long established institutions that are currently facing displacement. This is part of a package of legislation drafted by Supervisor Tom Ammiano. Another proposal has come through the Mayor's Office and a third, similar to the mayor's, is being offered by Supervisor Michael Yaki.

AEDC, formerly known as Artists Against Ruthless Greedy Gentrification (AARGG), occupied the Dancer's Group Footwork on August 15 after the dance group was driven out of the space by a 500% plus rent increase. AEDC has been working with city government to try and find funding resources to ensure that non-profits can remain in the city.

In September and October, Krissy Keefer of Dance Mission, Andrew Wood of ODC Theater, and activist Deborah Walker met with Ammiano's aide, Tomás Lee, to work out a program by which funds could be made available to subsidize endangered groups. These funds could allow groups to either rent or buy their own spaces. A three-tiered framework was hammered out by which, first city money, and then, perhaps state money, could be used to subsidize rent. Eventually the city could use state or private endowment resources to buy buildings to be used as public space that could be leased to artists and non-profits at affordable costs.

An emergency situation

Supervisor Ammiano announced his proposal on October 4, the day before Mayor Brown put forward his own idea of allocating \$5 million for the same purpose. "The Mayor was trying to preempt us with vague promises," Ammiano said. Lee claimed there was no indication where funding for the mayor's plan would come from.

According to Pam David of the Mayor's Office of Community Development, the SF Arts Commission,

the hotel tax, and funding from a pool of money that the city annually receives from the federal government, would provide part of the aid package to both the arts and non-profits. She also said that the mayor had intended to implement such an allocation early this year in response to the alarming findings of the Hewlett Foundation, Compass Point Non-Profit Services, and others indicating the danger that non-profits and arts groups are facing.

Just do it, now

Andrew Wood, of ODC Theater, would welcome help from anyone. He said one of the key differences between Ammiano's legislation and the mayor's is that Ammiano's offers immediate rent subsidies while the mayor's doesn't. "I don't want to subsidize rent either but we have to because this is an emergency," said Wood.

David stated that the mayor was unwilling to wholeheartedly endorse rent subsidization because "We're not for enriching private landlords with city money." There's a foreseeable danger with such a practice.

Ammiano's legislation would allow long-standing arts organizations and non-profits to apply for funds on a first come/first serve basis for a twelve month period should their rent increase over 100 percent.

Arts organizations could receive up to \$80,000 depending on how many groups apply for a loan. Organizations applying would also have to have operating budgets of \$1.2 million or less. The second part of the plan would need a city governing body to approach the State Economic Development Bank to provide a low-interest loan of up to \$30 million. This would enable the city to buy buildings to rent to artists and non-profits that in turn would pay off the loan.

A third strategy involves getting the private sector to help out as well. "We're not going to dole out money to fly-by-night organizations," Lee stated. "This is to save organizations that have been in the community for years."

This is our community

Meanwhile, the arts organizations and non-profits are holding their collective breaths. Regarding Brown's suggestion of providing space for non-profits in other parts of the city such as Pier 70, Krissy Keefer of Dance Mission, a dance group with a precarious hold on their Mission District location, said, "this is our community. This is where we want to stay." AEDC member Leda Dederich added, "Industry and community not working together doesn't make sense."

Village Properties bought the building on 24th and Mission which houses Dance Mission, Café La Bohème and two other businesses. They were going to evict the previous leaseholder of Dance Mission's space for delinquency in paying rent. Keefer, who was facing eviction on November 1, has renegotiated a lease with Village Properties to January and is in the process of renegotiating for a longer period.

Village Properties, which is also half of the partnership that evicted Arroyo and Sons Auto Repair from the garage they had occupied for 40 years at the corner of 17th and Valencia. They are replacing the auto shop with luxury condominiums.

According to Larry Jacobs of Village

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Properties they say they have no immediate plans to redevelop the site on 24th Street, "We've kept all the tenants who were honoring their lease agreements. We had had so much difficulty with the prior leaseholder (of Dance Mission) that had been paying rent irregularly over a fifteen-month period. We are currently in negotiations with Krissy Keefer for a long-term lease. We asked her to post a \$25,000 security deposit which she would get back when the lease was completed, that is the lease until January. Right now she pays \$6668 a month which factors out to \$0.74/sq.-ft. We're asking for \$1.44/sq.-ft which is still considerably below market and which factors out to \$12,000/month (for more than 8000 sq.-ft of space)."

Below market or not this is still somewhat steep for a not-for-profit arts organization. Supervisor Yaki is also proposing a relief fund of public money that would subsidize rent as an emergency measure. Yaki's proposal is very similar to the Mayor's. Both focus on intermediate and long-term solutions. Yaki's legislation involves \$3 million, of which \$500,000 would go to rent subsidy for the arts. The other \$2.5 million would go to capitol improvements and purchasing buildings. As of press time, Yaki's plan has been back-tabled for 30 days by Supervisor Ammiano.

While critics have argued that there is nothing substantial to Brown's plans for saving not-profits, David claimed otherwise. She pointed out that the Mayor is setting aside 25,000 sq.-ft for non-profits at the Mission Bay site, as well as space for seniors, and emphasized the Mayor's efforts to bring the private sector into supporting the city in its efforts. "On October 3, we created a web site, orgspaces.org, which is a resource for folks to find assistance. Lot's of folks didn't realize these resources existed."

Artists become active

These responses on the part of Brown, Ammiano and Yaki were probably spurred by the direct action campaigns that have taken place in the Mission and elsewhere this summer. A lot of people are angry and

feel that the city is giving them their walking papers.

The sense is that if you are not a dot-comer you are being encouraged to believe that you do not belong here anymore. It seems as if advocacy and direct action on the behalf of groups like AEDC, SOMAD (SOMA Against Displacement) and MAC (Mission Anti Displacement Coalition) have alerted legislatures that there is a big problem that can't be ignored. "We feel like we are the organization that has pressed to get the arts in the media," Keefer said.

AEDC organized the street protest on August 15, and subsequent occupation of the Dancer's Group Building, attracting a lot of attention and noise to what had been previously more of an anxious murmur with occasional eruptions of conflict. Working with MAC, PODER (People Organizing to Demand Environmental and Economic Rights) and others, AEDC has made the Mission the host of a number of lively protests, performances and embarrassing photo opportunities which have earned national attention.

These actions have, like the Death of the Arts Parade held in Union Square and the upcoming Million Band March on November 5 (see Calendar page 18) are being conducted by artists who have lost their homes, studios or spaces.

AEDC emphasizes direct action but has added political lobbying to its portfolio and embraces a wide coalition of arts groups including the Queer Cultural Center, SomArts Studios as well as the ODC Theater and Dance Mission. "What we want to do is buy buildings," said Wood. Brown echoed this desire in his State of the City speech. Wood believes the Brown appointed Planning Commission "is the real problem."

This sentiment has been expressed by many activists who feel that the commission merely green lights every proposal put forward by construction and real estate companies, while ignoring the concerns of those who are threatened with eviction



when a multi-media firm buys up a block. When the mayor talks planning in regards to public space his track record hasn't been good, nor has that of the Commission.

Too little too late?

Despite their different approaches and perspectives Ammiano, Brown, and Yaki do not have irreconcilable differences. All of them acknowledge and recognize a spatial crisis and all of them have come up with ideas. If there is a common problem it is that, as admitted by all those involved, these ideas are only stop gaps.

Activism and awareness aside, neither

\$1.5 million, \$3 million, \$5 million or a combined total could buy more than one or two buildings with the current rates for real estate in San Francisco. At best these sums are merely temporary measures until the State or the private sector kicks in to add its support. If the market doesn't change large sums are going to have to be allocated to keep the non-profits and the arts from going under. Brown has promised to become "as smart as the Catholic Church, as smart as the Baptist Church," when it comes to securing property for the City. But the question remains; is it too little too late?

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MISSION DISTRICT

November

CALENDAR

1 WEDNESDAY

Grave matters – The forensic investigation of long dead bodies is sometimes the only way to determine the true extent of human rights atrocities. For the past 15 years, in 20 different countries, the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team has done this grim but important work. A photo exhibition of their experience runs at Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia, through December 1. Opening Reception tonight at 6pm. Gallery hours Wed-Sat 12-5, Tuesday by appointment. Call 626-2787.

2 THURSDAY

Got dead? – For Day of the Dead events and ongoing exhibitions see page?

Zap commentaries – author, poet, and historian John Ross reads from his latest book *The War against Oblivion*, a record of the six year struggle of the Zapatistas. Modern Times Books, 888 Valencia, 7:30pm, free. Call 282-9246.

Sueños y exitos – The SF Hispanic Chamber of Commerce hosts their 16th annual awards ceremony with sponsors Seagrams and Dodge Motor Company. Veteran's Theater, 401 Van Ness, 5:30-9pm. For information and tickets, call 577-7363; call 864-4795 to RSVP.

3 FRIDAY

Brazilian kicks – *The Spirit of Brazil* features not only the Mission based Axé ABADÁ capoeira ensemble and Afro-Brazilian dance by Tania Santiago but five renowned capoeiristas from Brazil, in town especially for this event. This is a good introduction to the distinctive martial art for those unfamiliar with it, and a must for aficionados. ODC Theater, 3153 17th Street, November 3 at 6pm, November 4 at 3pm, \$12-15. Call 863-8934.

Balazo kicks – Nothing is more typically a Mission event than a Balazo/Badlands Art Opening Reception. This time it's for a group show, *Corpus Carnaval*, the theme of which is the human body. Live music and performance. Show runs through 11/30. Balazo/Mission Badlands Gallery, 2811 Mission, 8pm, \$3-5. Call 920-0896.

4 SATURDAY

Sparks Fly Benefit – All funds raised at this annual event go directly to women political prisoners. The program includes Rhodesia Jones and the Medea Project/Theater for Incarcerated Women, singer Faith Nolan, Barrie White AKA Fresh, and former political prisoner Laura Whitehorn. SF Women's Building, 3543 18th Street, 7:30pm, recommended donation \$10-25. Call (510) 601-0182.

Cubanismo – The group Potaje with guest artists, including flamenco dancer La Tania and Orquestra la Moderna Tradicion, perform contemporary Cuban and flamenco music. Community Music Center, 544 Capp, 8pm, free. Call 647-6015 or go to www.sfmusic.org.

Two poets, two books and tunes – Luna's press presents Guillermo Menocal (*El Pasado Perdido*) and Carlos Castillo (*Nacer*) reading from their work, plus music by Jorge Molina. Food & wine. Javalencia Café, 920 Valencia, 7:30pm, free.

L as in love it or leave it – Dance Brigade and ABD Productions present "Love SF?", a benefit for the Yes on L campaign. A night solidarity, protest, performance, and heart. Dance Mission Theater, 3316 24th St., 8pm, \$10-100 contribution, all proceeds go to benefit the Yes on L campaign. Call 826-4401.

5 SUNDAY

Million Band March – Determined not to go quietly, or at all, musicians, performers, poets, teachers, and just plain folks will march against gentrification from 18th and Valencia to Civic Center. Free concert follows. Speakers include Kurt Hammet of Metallica and Tom Ammiano of Re-electica. Sister Spit does the spoken word thing. Music by John Santos, Jello Biafra, Mark Eitzel plus surprise guests. Noon to 6pm. Register at RRRNO@aol.com.

Reborn alive and kicking – The Batizado is a capoeira graduation ceremony where older students advance to a new level and anointed with a cap nick-name, and new students are welcomed into the group. Includes special performance; lots of high-spirited dancing and martial arts. ODC Theater, 3153 17th Street, 2pm. Call 863-8934.

6 MONDAY

World-class capoeira contest – The winners of this capoeira competition (a *Jogos*) will represent the US in the International Games in Rio next year. Should make for an exciting evening of dance and martial arts. Brazilian Cultural Center, 2376 Mission, 6pm. Call 284-6196 or go to www.abada.org.

L as in Last Chance – Mobilize with the Mission Anti-displacement Coalition (MAC) and get out the vote for Proposition L. Sign up for precinct walks, community outreach, and phone bank duty. And the Night before Elections, be a part of Campaña 200, the MAC team of 200 volunteers, 11/6, 8pm. Don't forget the Election night celebration party at ODC theater (17th & Shotwell). Call 863-6566 or go to www.savesanfrancisco.org.

7 TUESDAY

Satisfy that jazz Jones – Original stuff and classic Latin Jazz from the multi-cult cool cats of the Josh Jones Latin Jazz Ensemble. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia, 8pm, \$12-15. Call 626-3311.

The poets know it – *Poetry and the Cosmic Soul* is billed as a bardic round-table discussion. Bird and Beckett Books, 2788 Diamond, 7:30pm, free. Call 586-3733.

8 WEDNESDAY

Money matters – New Langton Arts gives a grant writing workshop. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission, 6pm, free. Call 821-1155.

Chic lessons – Michele Serros reads from her best selling *How to be a Chicana Role Model*, a hilarious and insightful look at the Chicana experience. Modern Times Books, 888 Valencia, 7:30pm, free. Call 282-9246.

Full TILT boogie – Actually its a silent auction featuring the works of some of the Bay Area's great artists to raise money for Teaching Intermedia Literary Tools (TILT), a group that shows youth and community members how to roll their own art and media. TILT has a shot at a 20-year lease in Potrero Hill if they can raise \$100,000 to build out and move in. Southern Exposure Gallery, 401 Alabama, 7pm, \$5-20 sliding scale. Call 401-8458.

9 THURSDAY

Dead man reciting – Judith Tannenbaum reads from her book *Disguised as a Poem*, an account of her 25 years of teaching poetry to maximum security inmates of San Quentin Prison accused of capital crimes. Modern Times Books, 888 Valencia, 7:30pm, free. Call 282-9246.

10 FRIDAY

Serious booty shakin' – Samba de Curacao presents *Brazilian Extravaganza Stage Show* with special guests from Miskie Latin American Music. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission, 8pm, \$13-15. Call 821-1155.

11 SATURDAY

Be cooperative, give us your money – this benefit with a silent and live auction is a bit out of the area but it benefits the Glenridge Cooperative Nursery School which is also out of the area but has lots of Mission District kids in attendance.

Complimentary bar and buffet. Great items such as Giants tickets and wine country getaways on the auction block. Hall of Flowers, Golden Gate Park, 6:30-11pm, \$15. Call 334-1094.

Havin' a good time – Opening Reception for *Heaven*, a digital mural by Alma Lopez in which a woman rejects institutional religion and all that patriarchal jazz. Exhibition runs through 12/14. Galeria de la Raza, 2857 24th Street, 7-9pm. Call 826-8009.

12 SUNDAY

Concert with consorts – Noted soprano and baroque specialist Judith and good buddies get down with some Bach and Montclair. St. Kevin's Church, 401 Cortland, 7pm, \$8. Email mothmuse@aol.com.

13 MONDAY

America has class – Felice Yeskel looks at the winners and losers in the ongoing wave of "prosperity," and the widening income divide as detailed in her book *Economic Apartheid* and puts forward some ideas on turning things around. Modern Times Books, 888 Valencia, 7:30pm, free. Call 282-9246.

14 TUESDAY

Rhyme time entertainment – Dan Liberthson reads his poetry, followed by the always-perilous open mic. Bird and Beckett Books, 2788 Diamond, 7:30pm, free. Call 586-3733.

Big time bad girl – Offending angel Karen Finley gives a talk and performance derived from her recently published collection of texts, performances, short stories and essays: *A Different Kind of Intimacy*. Modern Times Books, 888 Valencia, 7:30pm, free. Call 282-9246.

16 THURSDAY

Up against the wall, mural painter – From finance to finding a friendly location, this workshop on creating your own mural by mestre muralist Susan Cervantes tells you all you need to know about the wonderful world of two dimensional outdoor art. Precita Eyes Mural Arts and Visitors Center, 2981 24th Street, 7pm, \$35. Pre-registration required. Call 285-2287.

17 FRIDAY

A Czech-ered past – On the anniversary of the "Velvet Revolution," Randall



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A Publication of International Studies Academy and Its Community

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 1

FALL 2000

FREE

Sex: Is It the Right Decision For You? An Article For Teens

Montshona Ruut
Listen Up! Staff

In high school these days, it may seem to many that virtually everyone is having sex. You may think that you're the only one that's decided to wait, when in fact, this may not be the case. Yes, there are many sexually active teenagers, but does that necessarily mean that you have to be one too? I interviewed one sexually active teen, and one non-sexually active teen, to get their insights and views on sex, and to find out about the pressures of having it in today's day and age.

I sat down with a sexually active teenage boy (who will remain anonymous) to ask him about his views on sex. He seemed to be pretty okay with the idea of teenagers having it, as long as they protected themselves.

Q: Do you regret that you've had sex, and wish you would've waited?

A: Hell no, because I wanted to feel what sex was like.

Q: What advice do you have for other teens who are thinking about having sex?

A: Make sure you're ready, take extra precautions, and make sure to use a "jimmy hat."

I also sat down with a non-sexually active teenage girl (who will also remain anonymous) and found out how she felt about her decision to wait on sex for the time being.

Q: How do you feel about being a virgin?

A: I feel proud of myself because I'm different

Continued on Page A2

Rap: Sex, Violence, and Teen Behavior

Melvin Cano
Listen Up! Staff

I think the sex and violence in rap has an effect on teen behavior. Rappers talk about killing their wives and beating their girlfriends because their girlfriends are cheating on them. They also talk about killing people that bother them, having sex with lots of girls, and drinking. They rap about how using drugs makes you tough and cool.

Rap gives teens many wrong ideas on how to solve their problems. There are other solutions than drinking and smoking. Killing and violence are not a way out. Rap also influences teens to have sex with girls, by rapping about getting them pregnant and walking away.

Some people think that the sex and violence in rap lyrics doesn't affect teen behavior. Jose Ferreira, an ISA student that I interviewed, says that what the songs say, have nothing to do with people's behavior. You have to know how to control yourself and not let songs tell you what to do.

We all have different opinions about what it is that rappers say in their songs. I think, if you like their music, then listen to it. If you don't like their music, then no one is forcing you to listen to it!

Are Gangs Really Threatening Our Streets?

Amela Alickovic
Listen Up! Staff

To the public, gangs are known as minorities or youth of color who spend their time on the streets, violating our community and its people. In reality, they're old people, young people, black, white, latino, asian--essentially "everybody". Gangs are sometimes the most misjudged people that live in America's urban areas. The belief is that most gang members join gangs thinking that they will finally be a part of the so-called "family". In reality, the group is far less than a family; because gangs don't really help you become a better person, when a real family does.

As incoming gang members, they are expected to perform certain acts. Different gangs are expected to complete different tasks, like stand up alone against an other teen that is from a different gang. They are also expected to be violent and harmful to any other member from a different gang who claims a different color. What most people don't understand is that gangs

"When is it the right time?"



Q: Was having sex for the first time a big deal for you?

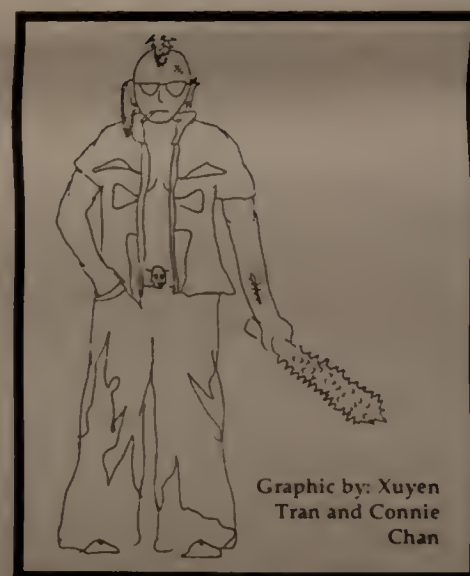
A: Well, yeah...I felt it was my turn to do it, to become more mature.

Q: Have you ever felt any peer pressure to have sex?

A: Not really...I wanted to have sex. I was getting curious, and I didn't want to wait 'til I was all old.

Q: Is getting an Sexually Transmitted Disease ever a concern of yours?

A: Yeah, I guess. I get more scared of STDs than pregnancy because there are so many out there.



Graphic by: Xuyen
Tran and Connie
Chan

are concentrated in communities in which kids are often neglected, raised around violence, alcohol, and drugs. That is because, these kind of communities don't get help from the government. So, the negativity that they are raised around, usually pushes them in a direction where they become a part of more negativity-gangs.

Many people believe that gang members are narrow-minded people that are only focused on the colors, "blue" or "red". They are driven away from the fact that people are more than just a label, or the color that they wear. When asked, "What is a gang?", many ISA youth usually respond, "A group of people wearing the same color, and talking ghetto". This shows that it's not just gang members that are narrow-minded. Many times people consider gang members to be stupid or illiterate, when in reality most gang members are really smart. They don't get the attention that they need at home, so they resort to the so called family of gangs.

Gang members are people who need psychological help, but won't admit it. Doing badly in school shows that these teens are crying out for help, but nobody at home or at school seems to notice. That's why they do what they do and end up nowhere in their lives. It's hard to get all the negative stuff out. They may be doing these things to hurt people that don't give them love or attention. In the end, they only hurt themselves. So many teens put their lives at risk for a color. But, is it really worth it?

Before Having Sex...

Ask Yourself the Following Questions:

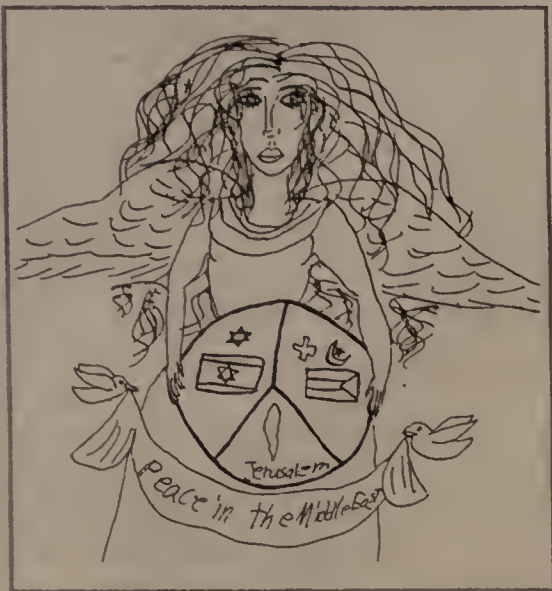
- 1) Is having sex in agreement with my own moral values?
- 2) If I have a child, am I responsible enough to provide emotional and financial support?
- 3) Am I sure no one is pushing me into sex?
- 4) Can I handle the guilt and conflict I may feel?
- 5) Am I willing to risk STDs, including AIDS, pregnancy, and/or sterility?
- 6) If the relationship breaks up, will I be glad I had sex with this person?



**The Listen Up! Crew,
Comin' to You This Fall.
Everythang's New,
And We've Got it All!**

No One is Listening to the Arabic Minority

Julia Jildeh
Listen Up! Staff



Graphic by: Julia Jildeh

Most minorities know what it's like to be discriminated against and to be treated badly because of their ethnicity. In general most ethnic groups have some representation in the news and in the media. Yet, the Arabic community seems to have little or no representation. This discrimination is only made worse by the few negative portrayals of Arabs in the media.

"Hollywood movies seem to out do themselves in Arab-bashing," says the ADC Times, an anti-discrimination Arabic newsletter. Many of the movies Hollywood makes, like *The Siege* or *Rules of Engagement* portray Arabs as angry, anti-American bomb toting terrorists. Many Arabs have protested against studios like Paramount, but it doesn't seem to have much of an effect on the movies the studios make. The First Amendment protects the studios. Until the movie makers pose a public danger with their portrayals, they

Homeless in the Park

Jorge Olascoaga
Listen Up! Staff

Have you ever seen a homeless man walking down the street while pushing his can mobile? Well, I have. What do you think we as a community, along with the San Francisco Mayor should do about this problem? I think we should make a rescue team that goes out to the streets of San Francisco and picks up the homeless and takes them to a program that would be called Homeless Camp (HC). Homeless Camp would be a place for them to sleep, eat, shower, get information about the consequences of doing drugs and drinking. They

"Every year, there seems to be more homeless than McDonalds sells cheeseburgers..."

could also go to HC and get a basic education. I interviewed some of my latino friends and asked them what they thought about my idea. My young friends said, "That's a great idea! You should take it to the city hall and ask the people there what they think about your idea". There seems to be more homeless every year than McDonalds sells cheeseburgers; that's something very serious and I think we should act fast before the numbers continue to grow. I also interviewed two young ladies that were harassed by two homeless men about two years ago. I asked them if they were scared and what happened, "Well we were both afraid and feared for our safety. It was about 8 o'clock in the night. We were walking toward Mission and Valencia when all of a sudden the homeless men came out of the alley and start following us saying, 'Woe, Mamasita! Where are you from blondy? Why don't you come aboard the love train baby?'. After we heard all that crap, we decided to run away. That was one of the scariest days of our lives."

I asked what do you think we as a community should do to solve this problem? "We think they should be sent to prison." But , then I told them about HC and they liked it.

In conclusion, I think we should try out this method and see what kind of responses we get from the community and from the poor homeless.

can express themselves any way they please. So, Arabs have no grounds to sue, even if they prove that the American public has been fed racist stereotypes.

Then, there is the news media, which only seems to cover the negative issues about Arabs. Like the Oklahoma bombing a few years back. The news media blamed it on Arabic terrorists until the police evidence proved them wrong. It turned out to be a

"Many of the movies...portray Arabs as angry, anti-American bomb toting terrorists."

psycho American. Then, there is the whole news coverage of the Palestine-Israel conflict, which further adds to the misperceptions. In Israel, groups of Arabs are being discriminated against, violated of their human rights, and murdered. Yet, we rarely hear about any of this. Why do they only tell about the violent protests of the Palestinians, even though many protests are peaceful? The news only tells half the story. The media never tells you how it all got started and why the struggles really began. There are always two sides to a story , and to a war.

What is going on in the Middle East is not recent news. Thousands of people around the world, like the Native Americans in the US, have been forced off their homeland for centuries. The only difference is the generation of people it is happening to. So many of these stories have not been publicized. Let us hope this recent news of Israel discussing peace with Palestine goes well. If you wish to learn more about the Arab world you could get a copy of the ADC Times, or you could visit the following web sites: <http://www.cactus48.com/truth.html>, <http://www.israel-mfa.gov.il>, <http://www.iap.org>

Sex... Continued from Front Page

from everyone else.

Q: Do you wish you were having sex?

A: At times, yeah, because everyone says it feels good, and sometimes I wanna see for myself.

Q: What do you think are some advantages to not having sex?

A: You don't have to worry about pregnancy or STDs, and people can't speak out on you.

Q: What advice do you have for other teens who are thinking about having sex?

A: Try to wait on it until you're really ready, but if you can't, use protection.

As you can see, teenagers have different opinions on sex, although many seem to think boys have it more than girls. Or so the story goes. But in the end, the decision is yours.

It's not up to your best friend, or your cousin, or even your parents. And although teens may disagree about when to have it, everyone seems to agree on one thing: PROTECT YOURSELF! And remember, that you can't take it back, so you must be careful, and make the right choice for yourself, because you're the one that has to live with the consequences.

For more information go to Teen Talk at <http://www.w-cpc.org/sexuality.teensex.html>

International Studies Academy Needs Tutors!



ISA is looking for tutors for the After School Program. Parents, guardians, community volunteers, and college students are encouraged to apply. Currently, ISA operates an After School Program everyday for students who are struggling in different academic areas. We are looking for positive role models to help with the program and encourage academic success for our students. If interested, please contact Pam Duszynski at (415) 695-5866 or email pduszyn@muse.sfusd.edu.

You can make a difference!

The Listen Up! Crew

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Graphic by: Gustavo Munoz

IS GRAFFITI REALLY SUCH A BIG DEAL?

Paulina Cazares
Listen Up! Staff

I'm 14, turning 15 and it feels good having skills to do graffiti pieces and to be able to tag. Graffiti is dominated by guys, but that makes me feel even better to know that girls like myself can have the same skills and are sometimes better at graffiti than guys.

Many people think graffiti is bad and it vandalizes other people's property. This may be true in many cases. Now that Prop 21 passed, it is more risky to tag and to do pieces. If you do more than

are expected to follow. Why should teens obey the police, if we feel that the police are only trying to protect the adults rather than help youth?

I think graffiti looks best when it expresses a positive message to the public. One of my own is, "It is a gift to be able to be yourself". Now, because of Prop. 21, I think about it more whether or not I do graffiti. A personal friend of mine pointed out that there are many teenagers that are being convicted of a



Photos by: Paulina Cazares, Gustavo Munoz, and Jose Ferreira

\$400 of damage, you can be convicted of a felony--which is just as bad as rape and murder! In reality, graffiti is nothing compared to these offenses. The question is, does this proposition impact graffiti artists or does it make them more rebellious towards the proposition? I think it makes them more rebellious against the proposition.

"Why should teens obey the police, if we feel that the police are only trying to protect the adults rather than help youth?"

One reason teens are more rebellious against Proposition 21, is because they never got the chance to express their opinion on it. Some teens feel that they should not have to obey this law, since they never voted on it.

Teens are always told what to do, and so many rules are laid down that they

felony when they really should be charged with a misdemeanor for such things like tagging and graffiti. The only comment I said to her was, "It is just another crazy way to live life".

The reason I take the risk to tag and do graffiti pieces is because there are not many recreation centers and clubs where I can go and hang out and develop the artistic skills I have without paying a fee. Some of the recreation centers and clubs that do exist are not safe or they are unsanitary. So, I express myself, my skills and ability in the streets and on walls—even if some people think it is vandalism!

SOME POEM BY IRENE COOK

RED IS THE COLOR OF BLACK, WHICH WAS ONCE CALLED EVIL.
RED BLOOD.
RED BODIES LOST IN THESE NASTY CITIES
FILLED WITH HURT, CRIME, JAILS.
IN ALL OF THIS, WE FIND AMERICA.
FILLED WITH GREED, GREEN MONEY, FOLLOWERS.
SEXY BOYS AND GIRLS FOUND IN TALL BUILDINGS WITH CHALK
AROUND THEM.
WE AS BROTHERS, SISTERS, FRIENDS, NEED A LOVING
GRANDMA TO OPEN OUR SOULS,
GIVE US DIRECTIONS, AND MAKE US FEEL ALIVE.
AND LEAD US OUT OF THIS SICK, SAD WORLD.

God, Teens, and School Violence

Jay Miranda
Listen Up! Staff

Have too many of our friends traded in their textbooks for guns and knives? Has the struggle to learn and be somebody in life been case aside by the struggle to survive another day? We have seen school massacres occur in Alabama, Kentucky, Kansas, Colorado and many others. So what prevents ISA from becoming the next target? What is it that leads a teen to the point of rage where they have to turn to violence? What is it that makes them think that there is no other alternative?

According to a documentary of MSNBC, thousands of high school students in the state of Louisiana believe that the reason violence has become a period in our bell schedule is because God and Prayer were taken out of the school system. They believe that the laughter of schools like Columbine were turned into screams and cries because, when teen don't have a source of hope to turn to, they turn to whatever they can to satisfy their anger. These Louisiana students are rallying to protest in huge stadiums and making sure that their voice is heard. They believe our nation under God doesn't allow its students to worship him freely.

"I do believe in God," said one ISA student I interviewed. "But there has always been violence in schools. So, I don't think that prayer was actually a barrier holding violence back. Just look at Catholic Schools. They have all those problems and they pray everyday. I think that whoever wants to be bad, will. Whoever doesn't, won't."

"Everybody believes different things and acts in different ways. I believe that if prayer is let back into schools, that will just trigger another fight of religion."

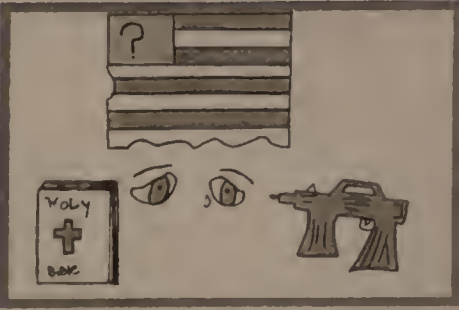
Has the government made the right choice by taking prayer out of schools? I believe that all teens need a source of hope whether they admit it or not. I

"...all teens need a source of hope, whether they admit it or not."

think that there are many times when teens are so overwhelmed with stress and problems that they need someone to go to besides their friends and parents. But if they don't know where to turn to, what will they do?

There are thousands of clubs in high schools all across the nation, composed of teens devoted to spreading the word of the love of God to their peers. These clubs are part of an organization called Youth Alive Ministries. This ministry is devoted to make sure that teens know about their rights on freedom of religion in school. One of these clubs will soon be opening at ISA and hopefully it will be a source of hope to those who have none.

Some think that violence is inevitable in schools. But there are people who will continue the never-ending task of letting young people know that there are other alternatives. Is God and prayer a neces-



Graphic by: Jay Miranda and Robert Hernandez

sity that schools lack to bring back moral values to teens? Or is violence just an icon of teen life that will never fade? You decide!

Car Stereo Specialists Conquer at Age 15

Carlos Montenegro
Listen Up! Staff

Is this title really saying what I think it's saying? I guess so. I chose this topic because it seems so interesting that a pair of fifteen-year-olds could install a whole car stereo system, and only began to learn few months ago. I actually got a chance to interview one of these two geniuses, Javier Alvarez. But he has a partner in crime, whose name is Adam. Javier and Adam have always been good friends and have always been talented. Before they got into car stereo systems, they built model RC cars, which are really hard to build. But, back to the interview. Here are some of the questions I asked:

Q: Since when did you find your first interests?

A: I found it at the age of 14.

Q: What attracted you to this hobby?

A: The bass, the vibration of the houses when you pass by in your car, the sound of treble, and the accomplishment of completing an indestructible sound empire.

Q: Do you plan to make a career out of this hobby, and for how long?

A: Hell yeah! For life. I plan to get a MECP certified degree. Which means a degree on mobile audio systems, to be a professional at it. We plan to make a chain of shops around the bay area called J's and A's shop. We want to start as soon as possible. We know how to install pretty much anything. We install stereos, crossovers, amps, EQ's, subwoofers, and highs and meds. That pretty much makes a complete sound system.

Q: Do people actually trust you installing something in their car?

A: Yeah, most people trust you as long as you can get the job done and do a professional job.

Q: What do you want to tell others that also want to install car stereos?

A: Start as early as you can, learn as much as possible, and be as successful as you can.

I just want to add, that you can be anything you really want to be—at whatever age. As long as you are determined and have a goal set out for your- self.

To find out more about this publication or Our Schools, Our Media contact:

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OSOM inspires and teaches students to mobilize community action on behalf of their schools.

What Teens Think About Drugs

Tommy Ruiz
Listen Up! Staff

Do you ever wonder why so many people try drugs even though they are bad for your health? I interviewed some friends about this topic. I interviewed these people because I know that one of them does drugs and the other doesn't. I also know that they'll tell me the truth.

My first interview was with one of my friends that is fifteen years old and goes to Philip and Sala Burton. I asked him what kind of drugs he has taken so far. He said that he has taken Ecstasy and Marijuana. He first tried Marijuana because he had a lot of friends that did it, so he wanted to try it. After he tried it, he liked the feeling and continued to do it. He tried Ecstasy because he heard so many times how good the feeling was and he was anxious to try it. One day, his friends offered him some, so he did it. My friend told me that he has done Marijuana so many times, that he



Graphic by: Santos Huesos

couldn't remember how many. He has tried Ecstasy 29 times! He tried this drugs mainly because he wanted to see how they felt, and to him they felt good.

He felt it was a wise choice that he started and said, "It was such a good feeling and if I had decided not too take them then, I would have never found out how these drugs felt. I think I would be missing out on a good thing."

He says he's still able to do things that he likes and he's not really worrying about his health. He mainly does drugs at parties or dances but once in a while he'll do them after

school or when he's just hanging out with friends. I asked if he was ever considering stopping and he replied, "I'm not thinking about it now, but later on when I get older, I might consider stopping."

The other person I interviewed was also a fifteen year old. This person doesn't take drugs. He goes to ISA. The main reason why he doesn't do drugs is because he thinks, "People look stupid when they're on them," and "It's just stupid. Period". I also asked him if any of his friends tried to get him to do drugs and he said yes, they have, but he's not trying to be a

follower. He also knows what's the best thing for him so he hasn't tried them.

I then asked if he ever tried to stop a friend from doing drugs. His answer was, "Of course. I tried. But, I can only think of one friend that I talked some sense into and got them to stop". He also said he'll never do drugs because he knows they'll mess him up and he wants a long and healthy life.

I think that the person I interviewed that does do drugs is doing the wrong thing. He obviously doesn't know what is good for him and what's bad for him. On the other hand, the person I interviewed that doesn't do drugs is doing the right thing. He's keeping his good health and I really admire him for not falling for peer pressure. I think that he's been well educated about drugs.

I know that different kids have different opinions about drugs. It's up to them whether or not they want to jeopardize their lives by doing drugs. I think to prevent young people from doing drugs, we should inform them of not just the short term but also the long term effects. Then, maybe they'll realize the harm drugs do to people.

JORNALERO

by Mikel Calderon

I am a day laborer,
I live under the constant
roaring of cars.
The shimmering moon is
my blanket, the air
is my protection.

I stand in fence
surrounded corners,
Hoping that some one
needs a bartender, or a
dish washer,

I stand there, sharing my
fate with many others.
I can demolish,
as well as construct,
I can do plumbery,
carpentry,
I'll do anything
to bring back a piece
of bread to my family.

Hire me today.
Fire me right after lunch
if you wish.
Pay me ten dollars,
or five,
pay me a hundred,
I'll be satisfied.

I'm a Jornalero,
See you next corner.

Is a One Child Policy Good for China?

Winnie Chan
Listen Up! Staff



Graphic by:
Shila
Evanchak

In China, married couples are only allowed to have one child. The reason this policy exists is because there is a need for China to decrease and slow the growth in its population. I'm kind of interested in how those who were born in China feel about this policy. At ISA, I have a lot of friends who were born in China; most of them think the one child policy is good for China. If the one child policy in China works out, then other poor Third World countries should practice it also.

First, I interviewed Cocoya at ISA. She is from China and she is the second child in her family. She said China has the right idea. An only child has a much better education and lifestyle than a child in a family with many children. The parents can devote much more love, money, and time to their child. On the other hand, in the rural areas, where the people are very poor, most of the families have at least two children. They think that the more children they have, the more can share with the work.

The second interview I did was with Vivi at her house. She agrees with Cocoya, and thinks the one child policy not only

controls China's population, but also the earth's. Huge populations pollute the environment. In addition, she feels it is better for the economy because the government does not have to spend more money on more people.

I then interviewed Josephine at Washington Park. She was born in Hong Kong. She is one of my friend's who is against this policy; I think she has this opinion because she was not born in China. She thinks it is morally wrong for a government to forbid people from having children. In China, if a woman is pregnant with a second child, she must abort it if she can't afford to raise it. If you give birth to a second child, you have to pay a fine to the government. Some families don't want to kill their unborn children so they abandon them after they are born. These children don't get a good education, housing, or employment.

The one child policy seems to be working. For example my cousin in China, his parents only have him. He studies in private school, has a good education, a great house to live in, food and clothes. On the other hand, you can go to China and see very poor abandoned babies

and children. Mostly girls are the ones to be abandoned. Males are favored over females because they carry a family's last name. Those baby girls are innocent and they have the right to live!

I think China should limit its policy to include two children. Otherwise, people won't have any family relationships. They will only have their parents and grandparents. No aunts, uncles, or cousins. How lonely! A family provides love, guidance, and knowledge. Without it, you lose outside support or positive influence. For more info go to: <http://www.lifeintitute.org/china.htm>

The Listen Up! Project Needs Your Help!

This may be one of our last issues if we don't find sponsorship soon.

If you want to help,
please contact us at:

isalistenup@yahoo.com

Congratulations to Norlando Saavedra! Winner of the new *Listen Up!* logo design contest!

FREEDOM

by Priscilla Beavers

One nation under lock and key
hand in hand we bypass misery and tragedy
words are not blocked by bars of
jail cells freely allowed to flow from curvaceous lips
daring to speak heart, mind, and soul
doors slamming in foreigners faces.
"Sorry, but for you we have no applications.
Do you understand what I'm sayin'?"

We want to hear
what you think!

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want to say about the
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Lyman and Danielle Jatlow will discuss Czech literature and post-revolutionary culture. Bird and Beckett Books, 2788 Diamond, 7:30pm, free. Call 586-3733.

18 SATURDAY

Taking BART apart – Tired of the same old BART Plaza on 24th Street? Come to this first community redesign meeting and help make the place a little more people friendly. Spanish translation & refreshments provided. Mission Cultural Center, 2886 Mission, 10am-1pm. Call 282-3334 x23.

Animal people wanted – This orientation session for SPCA volunteers will cover the fine points of cat socializing, dog walking, and pet adoption counseling. SPCA, 243 Alabama, 10am, free. Call 554-3087.

Black Disabled Man with a big mouth & a high I.Q. – Leroy F. Moore Jr., revolution-ary poet, activist, lecturer and Founder of Disability Advocates of Minorities Organiza-tion celebrates his birthday and release of his first book. Raw poetry, boogie down music, dance and food. Cafe La Boheme, 243 Alabama, 8pm, free. Call 695-0153.

19 SUNDAY

That's Australian for bagpipe mate – The MCDE Trio performs improvisational music with harp, voice and didjerido. Bird and Beckett Books, 2788 Diamond, 3pm, free. Call 586-3733.

20 MONDAY

Performance art grab bag – Members of David Ford's Performance Workshop demonstrate what they've learned and possibly what they haven't. The Marsh, 1026 Valencia, 8pm, \$6. Call 826-5750.

21 TUESDAY

Author, author! – Readings by Molly Giles whose novel *Iron Shoes* offers up some contemporary California Gothic, and Alfredo Vea whose novel *God's Go Begging* deals with battles in Vietnam and Potrero Hill. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia, 8pm, \$5. Call 626-2787.

22 WEDNESDAY

Unmixed doubles – Free same sex Salsa dance class 6:30-7:30, and live flamenco dance performance by Yaelisa & Caminos Flamenco Company at 8pm, \$8. El Rio, 3158 Mission. Call 282-3325.

23 THURSDAY

It's Thanksgiving – stay home and eat yourself into unconsciousness while millions around the world go hungry. Take in some football too.

Just a reminder – Ebony Overeaters Anonymous conducts an ongoing drop-in weekly 12-step meeting every Saturday from 1:30-2:30pm at 601 Dolores St. @ 19th St. Call 974-6121.

25 SATURDAY

Eat me – *Mango*: a sweet, sexy dance party for women with dj's and chili spinnin' Hip-Hop, Dance Hall, Salsa, Soca and Samba from 3pm to 8pm, includes an omnivore patio BBQ from 3 to 5pm. Last mango of the season. El Rio, 3158 Mission. Call 282-3325.

27 MONDAY

Swamphings – Veteran, and not so veteran, performance artists take to the stage of the Marsh to provide thrills, chuckles and the occasional gasp. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia, 8pm, \$6. Call 826-5750.

28 TUESDAY

Alzheimer's support group – Open Discussion for all family members. 30th Street Senior Services, 225 30th Street, 10am, free. Call 292-8879.

Riddle me this – Renowned writer Tillie Olsen (*Tell Me A Riddle*) is joined by poets Sharon Doubiago and Aya de Leon. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia, 8pm, \$5. Call 626-2787.

29 WEDNESDAY

If you don't like the culture come on down and make some of your own – The Mission Culture Center invites members of the public to attend a meeting of the Cultural Support Committee, and to give suggestions on programming for the Center. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission, 7pm, 2nd flr., free. Call 821-1155.

Arts exodus – Local writer Rebecca Solnit examines the drama, which currently unfolds in our community as cash dot-commie nouveaux rich push out boho artists and eventually everybody else. Her book, *Hollow City*, predicts gloom and doom if this trend continues. Modern Times Books, 888 Valencia, 7:30pm, free. Call 282-9246.

30 THURSDAY

Silken voices – This years Spoken Word event, an annual benefit for the youth and family programs of the Jamestown Community Center, features music, poetry and fiction. The featured writer is Gail Tsukiyama, author of *Women of Silk*, *The Samurai's Garden*, and *The Language of Threads*. Cafe Que Tal, 1005 Guerrero, 7-10pm, \$7-10. Call 647-4709.

ONGOING

SUNDAYS

Community Music Center's Concert Series 11/5 - Sing-Tung Chiu and Dmitry Cogan (violin & piano) play the work of Handel, Mozart and others (\$10). 11/12 - Monica Scott & Jung Hae Kim (baroque cello and harpsichord) perform works of Bach, Gabrielli and others (\$10). 11/19 - Pepe Jacobo plays Latin Jazz, free. Community Music Center, 544 Capp, 4pm. Call 647-6015 or go to www.sfmusic.org.

MONDAYS

Get drunk cheap (well drinks and Bud Light \$1) then see if you can dance to Vroom, DJ's spinning Punk, Funk & Soul. El Rio, 3158 Mission, music 8-12am, no cover. Call 282-3325.

TUESDAYS

Free meditation class every Tuesday at the Church of Natural Grace, 972 Valencia, 7:30pm. Call 643-8800.

WEDNESDAYS

Artists Eviction Defense Coalition holds their weekly organizing strategy meeting.

Dance Mission (24th & Mission), 6:30pm, free.

THURSDAYS

Movies for a buck features the films of Edward James Olmos 11/9 *The Ballad of Gregorio Cortez*, 11/16 *American Me*, 11/23 Closed for Thanksgiving, 11/30 *Zoot Suit*. All shows at 7pm. Call 821-1155.

FRIDAYS

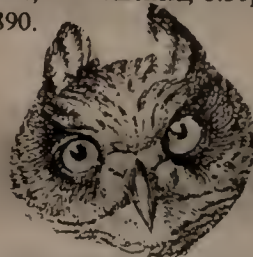
The Mock Cafe Pre-Show with Colin Mahan at 9pm, followed by Sketch Night at 10pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia, \$5. Call 826-5750.

SATURDAYS

Stand-Up Comedy Open Mic at 9pm, followed by Mock Cafe All-Star Comedian Showcase at 10pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia, \$5. Call 826-5750.

All's Well – Sex Club Shakespeare presents a naughty nightclub version of one of the bard's rarely produced comedies, and help it along a bit with contemporary fetish costumes. The Kilowatt, 3160 16th Street, 7pm, 410.

Other Cinema – SF's wildest underground film venue presents: 11/4 Pink Floyd's *Dark Side of the Moon* is synched to *The Wizard of Oz*, plus a newly scored *Un Chien Andalou* (Dali/Buñel) & more. 11/11 the hand made films of Thad Povey plus musician Mark Growden. 11/18 *Six Easy Pieces*, the latest from Jon Jost. 11/25 *Urban Block: Contested Territories*, short films about contemporary upheaval in our cities, especially this one. Artists Television Access, 992 Valencia, 8:30pm, \$5. Call 824-3890.



Ongoing THEATER & FILM

Cleopatra: The Musical – Everybody gets their gender bent in this tap dancing, Cole Portery tale of love gone wrong along the Nile. Victoria Theater, 2961 16th Street, Wenesdays & Saturdays at 8pm, Sunday at 7pm, matinees 11/12, 11/19 & 11/26 at 3pm, \$15-22. Call 861-5079.

Lies and Legends: Musical Stories of Harry Chapin – A celebration of the short life of balladeer Harry Chapin ("Taxi" and "Cat's Cradle"). Theater Rhinoceros, 2926 16th Street, runs 11/3-11/19, Thursdays & Sundays 8:30pm, Sundays 7:30pm, \$18. A portion of the proceeds goes to benefit World Hunger Year. Call 861-5079.

Tales from Native California: Coyotes Journey – Karuk Indian stories of the trickster coyote are told with the use of traditional Balinese puppetry and shadow theater, enhanced by cutting edge light projections onto a 30'x15' screen in this world premiere production that includes a cast of 15 actors, puppeteers, and musicians. SOMArts, 934 Brannan, runs 11/9-11/12, Thur, Fri & Sat 8pm, Saturday Matinee 2pm, Sunday 7pm followed by a reception with the artists, \$6-15. Call 648-4461.

The Velveteen Rabbit – Holiday classic of a stuffed rabbit trying to make it real. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 700 Howard @ 3rd St, runs 11/24-12/10, \$12-37. Call 978-2787 for show times.

Serial Murderess: A Play in Three Acts – Amanda Moody plays homicidal women from three separate centuries in tales told with song, surrealist imagery and original music. Venue 9, 252 9th Street, runs 11/9-12/3, Thursdays & Sundays (except Thanksgiving) 8pm, \$12-15. Gala Fundraiser November 11 (\$25 and up); Monday, November 27, is Anything You Can Pay night. Call 289-2000 or go to www.ftloose.org.

References to Salvador Dali Make Me Hot – In Barstow, Gabriela slips into a dream world as she awaits the return of her husband. When he does return she tries to draw him into her surreal world to rekindle their love. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia, Thursdays & Sundays 8pm, runs 11/16-12/10 (except Thanksgiving), \$9-15. Call 626-3311.

Meet John W.T.O. – Dan McHale wrote, produced, and stars in this autobiographical tale of his transformation from a mild-mannered liberal doing animation for KFC ads, to direct action dude on the streets of Seattle. Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa, Thursdays & Saturdays 8pm, runs 11/2-11/18, \$9-15. Call 621-7978 or go to www.meetjohnwto.org.

Fear and Misery of the Third Reich – Bertolt Brecht's rarely performed work on the early years of Nazi Germany. Build, 483 Guerrero, Fridays & Saturdays 8pm, runs through 11/18, \$10. Call 751-0439 or go to www.theaterrhubarb.com.

The Collected Works of Billy the Kid – Based on Michael Ondaatje's first novel, this non traditional look at the life of the famous outlaw is designed by John Sowle of Kaliyuga Arts. Runs Thurs-Sat through 11/4, The Marsh, 1062 Valencia, \$12-18. Call 826-5750.

Great Religions of America – Lots of sex, drugs and fashion (and some Satan) but not much religion in this 75-minute no-intermission evil comedy in which four desperate characters battle it out in the waiting room of a corporate mediation firm. Written and performed by Frank Wortham (*House of Lucky*). The Marsh, 1062 Valencia, Thursdays & Saturdays 8pm, \$10-15, runs 12/1-12/16; Previews 11/9-11/30. Call 826-5750 or go to www.themarsh.org.

Hot 'n' Throbbing – A suburban family's struggles with domestic violence and sexual identity in this dark comedy by Paula Vogel. Venue 9, 252 9th Street, Thursdays & Saturdays 8pm, runs through 11/4, \$15-20 (Thursdays are Pay-What-You-Can Day.) Call 289-2000.

God's Donkey: A Play on Moses – This updating of the Exodus story includes blues, jazz, humor, and some of the original Hebrew dialog. A Traveling Jewish Theater, 470 Florida., Thursdays & Saturdays 8pm, Sunday 2pm & 7pm, runs through 11/19. Call 399-1809.

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City Arts Gallery has no shortage of artists looking for exhibition space. Photo by v e miller

Art studios face prosperity's perils

Dot.com dollars buy art but displace art spaces

By Rachelle A. Jones

Last week, a brightly-lit yellow sign boldly announced the presence of an art gallery on 21st Street. Now, the sign is dull, the name of the gallery masked, and a "for lease" sign adorns the desolate shop's window. This might suggest that the San Francisco art scene, like so many of the local artists, is being pushed out of the city, but that is not the case, gallery owners said.

In fact, if the dot.com money is pushing out the artists, the implanted tech-workers are buying their art. "People with higher incomes are coming in and they're the ones buying artwork. It's kind of ironic," said Ana Montano, the director of Art Beat Gallery at 3266 21st Street.

Now in its fifth year, Art Beat has felt the loss of a few artists to rent hikes and evictions, but Montano said, "Artists are going to produce artwork no matter what, wherever they live even if its in their kitchen, which some of them do." The galleries themselves are not big money makers, Montano said. They are instead service providers, where artists can mingle with potential buyers, display their work, and sell it.

Providing that service, however, has been a struggle, said Mia Gonzalez, owner and curator of Encantada Fine Art Gallery at 904 Valencia Street. Despite selling more paintings last week than she had in her entire life, beginning her three year endeavor with Encantada was "to cut my throat, my wrists, whatever, but I feel a real urgency and need to provide a venue. It's stressful, we've had some lean months," Gonzalez said. But when the

bills come, "it just means I can't pay something else."

Gonzalez, who specializes in promoting Chicano and Latino artists' work, called the stream of evictions a "horrific hollowing out in San Francisco of the artists and cultural sources" by the newly wealthy dot-com "Pac-Mans." However, she said "I think that the art scene is still as rich as it ever was, maybe, not as bold."

Maybe not bold, but definitely alive, said metal sculpture artist Rebecca Anders, an employee of the cooperative City Art Gallery at 828 Valencia Street. "We went from scrambling to fill shows, which are bi-monthly, to being booked solid through March," she said. "People who are left here have to try even harder - it's a crunch to make, show and sell art." Art prices don't reflect much of a decline in the market either. A postcard size laser print of work sells for \$1-\$3, and original pieces, for example a painting on a paper bag bottom, sells for about \$20-\$200. Paintings range from \$20 for the 5"x 7" size to more than \$1,500 for pieces over 11" x 14". And photography prices begin at \$80.

From an artist's perspective, Anders said, the rent hikes, evictions, and economic boom of San Francisco "feels like people are being whipped into shape." A city that once had an abundance of studio space for young artists now has few, if any, affordable private studio spaces for rent, she said. So, many artists either work in their homes, outdoors, or in a variety of innovative spaces.

Anders' chosen medium requires a large non-flammable workspace with cement floors and industrial zoning, but she said she was lucky to find a shared studio for under \$100 a month. "I'm not normal in that I'm working in a common space," Anders said of her seven-person studio. It enjoys a 14-year, fixed-rent lease - and has a waiting list of hopeful artists in need of a vacancy. "They saw what was coming five years ago, and planned ahead," she said. But for the younger artists who didn't, "You're really up a creek in this town."

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The antennae farm is planned for this towering building at 25th and Capp. Photo by v e miller

Radiation farms in the Mission?

By David Mauroff

Farming takes on a whole new meaning at the Pacific Bell Building located at 25th and Capp Streets. The Metricom Corporation is proposing the installation of 16 wireless telecommunication antennae, in part used to provide service to cellular phones, without the approval of residents in the area.

The area around 25th and Capp is swarming with families and kids, with the Abel Gonzalez Senior Citizen's Home directly across the street from the Pac Bell building. There are claims that the antennae pose serious health risks to people living in the vicinity and that with each additional antenna, radiation levels increase.

Low Frequency Radiation

Metricom claims that the radio frequency radiation (RMF) and electromagnetic field (EMF) emissions are below federal guidelines. The proposed antennae are being built next to six other antennae currently operated by Pacific Bell. According to Metricom, their 16 additional antennae are low wattage, and therefore safe. The six operated by Pac Bell, however, are more powerful and put out higher emissions.

According to Planning Commission guidelines, "freedom from overcrowding" and antenna density is a serious concern. There is not a precise definition of overcrowding, but the consensus is that three to five structures constituted an antennae farm. Twenty two antennae would seem to exceed this limit.

Health Risks to Nearby Residents

Numerous studies detail the risks of antennae in residential areas. According to Dr. David Carpenter, Dean of the School of University of New York School of Public Health, "It is totally irresponsible to position a cellular antenna near a site where young children spend significant periods of time."

Dr. George Carlo, pathologist, lawyer and former Director of Wireless Technology Research Program, argues that there is strong evidence that cellular radiation can cause genetic damage to blood cells. Such damage could lead to tumors and breakdowns in the immune system.

William Hammond, a private consultant hired by Metricom, has publicly minimized the health impact, although he agreed that there are risks. Information is still being collected about this issue, but there has not been any conclusive data stating that there is not a risk. In 1990, the Environmental Protection Agency recommended that this type of radiation be classified as a "possible human carcinogen."

All Wireless Telecommunication Antennae are regulated by the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 passed during the Newt Gingrich era. According to experts, the standards set forth in this Act are among the least stringent in the world. Federal appeals from around the

country have been in favor of municipal, local and state governments proposing more strict regulations in their jurisdictions.

To protect children, seniors and hospital patients, the California Public Utilities Commission recommended that no wireless telecommunication antennae be placed on or near schools, hospitals or nursing homes. In contrast, San Francisco Planning Department guidelines state that public facilities, including libraries, schools, hospitals, health centers and places of worship, are *preferred* location sites.

San Francisco guidelines go on to rate sites based on their preference from class one to class seven. Because of the Pacific Bell switching facility, the 25th and Capp area is class one, the highest site preference. If it weren't for the facility, the area would be class seven, a disfavored site, based on the concentration of residents.

The Planning Commission does have the right to override class one status based on the "antenna farm" provision. When asked to comment, Metricom officials seemed proud of the fact that of twenty antenna projects around San Francisco, this was the only one in a residential area.

Residential Response

As required by law, Metricom initially held public meetings but in the middle of the day after notifying neighbors with flyers only in English. There was sparse turnout and little opposition.

Anti-antenna residents took up the fight and petitioned the Planning Commission for another round of meetings. Commissioners James Salinas and Dennis Antenore sympathized with the group and another round of meetings was held at more appropriate times, with flyers distributed in English, Spanish and Chinese.

Metricom and Hammond seemed shocked that anyone even attended. Participants opposed the project, without much impact. The Planning Commission granted a permit for the sixteen antennae on September 21.

Residents have formed the Anti-Antenna Coalition, and the group is currently gathering signatures to appeal earlier decisions. It has been a challenge because they are required to collect signatures from property owners in an area comprised mainly of renters.

An appeal is also pending before the Board of Supervisors to change language in the SF Planning Code, removing sensitive public sites as a preference for antenna placement. To get involved, contact Elizabeth Bell at (415) 282-2341.

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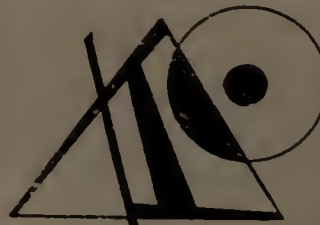
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The Carlin family at a recent Golden Gate Park outing.

Local family builds senior housing

Carlin Apartments will help seniors caught in the housing crunch

By Judy West

Construction of the Carlin Apartments, thirty-six new senior apartments at 14th and Valencia, was recently completed, providing a rare example of how affordable housing can be built in the city by private developers without public assistance. The developers are a local family who have owned the property for 75 years and used to run the bar that was located on the site before it burned down 18 years ago.

Grandfather Dennis Carlin came to San Francisco from Ireland in the 1920's, according to his granddaughter Erin. His son and grandson run the family business today and daughter Regina lives on site and manages the new rental property.

This is an entirely privately financed project, restricted to seniors, with 10% of the units set aside for persons making 60% of the median income in San Francisco. The 10% set-aside is a requirement of the Planning Department because the site is zoned heavy commercial (C-M) where housing requires a Conditional Use permit. Unfortunately, in zoning districts which permit housing, there are no requirements that any percentage of the units be made affordable.

In addition, these owners are welcoming seniors with Section 8 housing vouchers and the like, which provides rental assistance that can be applied to the market rate units. So far half of the units already rented are either on Section 8 or in the designated, low-income units.

A family affair

The NMN interviewed Erin and brother Dennis (grandson of Dennis senior) who runs the construction operations. Dennis recalled that the family was in the neighborhood a lot when he was growing up, feeding the tradesmen who frequented the Union Temple that once stood at 14th and Guerrero. "My grandmother tended bar as well" said Dennis.

Grandfather Carlin had a few bars around town in his day, including another at 14th and Guerrero, which is also being rehabilitated by the family currently. After grandfather Dennis died in 1965 the family sold off their bars and now operates a primarily residential building business.

The lot at 14th and Valencia had been vacant since a fire destroyed Lockhart's, a bar located there for most of the years the Carlin family owned the property. The old building also had a laundry and bookstore along Valencia, and Bauer Engraving on the 14th Street side.

Incentives for Senior Housing

The family chose to limit the project to seniors rather than build condominiums or lofts. "My Dad had heard about the senior voucher system and wanted to give it a try," said Dennis. In exchange for this restriction, City Planning allowed them to have twice as many units on the lot as standard housing, and also allowed retail at the ground level instead of the one parking space per unit requirement that would otherwise be required of new housing units. "There was no neighborhood opposition to the project, but it still took forever," he said.

These low-income units are available at \$750 to \$850 per month to individuals making \$30,000 per year or less. The rest of the units are considered market rate (\$1050 - 1250/mo for studios and \$1350 - 1600/mo for one bedroom). The project has been approved by the Housing Authority, which will pay up to 80% of the rent to qualifying seniors who can obtain Section 8 vouchers. "Some of our tenants are paying only \$150-200 per month," said Erin.

"We are also working with Catholic Charities and the Gay Coalition, who also provide rent subsidies to individuals" said Erin. "Catholic Charities is surprised that we are not fully occupied already; they claim there are many seniors looking." She relayed her frustration with the Housing Authority and the time it takes them to process the vouchers. "We have lost so many people because of the difficulty in getting people approved with the Housing Authority," she said.

"Some of our prospective tenants are living in old buildings with steep stairs that they cannot manage anymore," says Erin. With elevators, garbage chutes common rooms and other amenities designed for seniors, these units fill an important need in this community.

The project was completed in June and they still have apartments available. For information on the rental units call Regina at 252-1333.

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The Children's Book Press new space is great for readings and book parties. Photo by v e miller

Children's Book Press moves in

Non-profit bucks the economic trend to relocate in the Mission

By Elizabeth Ashford

Twenty-five years ago Harriet Rohmer watched her son's Head Start teacher read aloud from *Eloise at the Plaza*, and doubted that Mission children related to the wealthy, Anglo Eloise. "I thought it'd be wonderful if these children had books that reflected their cultures," explains Rohmer.

Inspired, Rohmer founded Children's Book Press out of her Mission home in 1975. Since then, this non-profit press has played a seminal role in expanding the definition of children's literature by publishing bilingual, multicultural books rooted in Chicano, Latino, African, Asian and Native American communities.

In October the Children's Book Press returned to its Mission roots, relocating to 2211 Mission @ 18th Street after a dramatic rent increase forced the Press out of its SOMA offices.

While their arrival proves it's possible for non-profits to move into (rather than just out of) the neighborhood, their transition was long and difficult. "We ran into economic battles with dot-coms and other businesses looking for office space," says Associate Director Gary Page, who credits Rohmer's persistence and an excellent Realtor with securing the space after a 6-month search.

The press' new home was filled with debris when Rohmer signed the 10-year lease last August. "It was a scary space when we moved in; there was a huge pile of dirt in the middle of the floor and it was dark," recalls Rohmer, "I kept thinking: Oh no! It's so expensive, and it looks like this!"

But several months of hard work have transformed this former furniture store into a colorful, playful office reminiscent of a kindergarten classroom. Out front, plastic chairs in rainbow hues beg kids big and small to sit and peruse the publications on display. The walls, painted lime green, soft yellow, sky blue and deep purple, are bedecked with cats, children and iguanas - all characters from the Press' books.

A water theme runs throughout; two murals by illustrator Mira Reisberg - a "Water Jaguar" painted onto exposed water pipes and a lily pond drawn on the hardwood floors - adorn the office's entryway. A loft's ladder has been painted to resemble running water, and a 12-foot mural by Karen Lusebrink is resplendent with mauve hippos, amorous giraffes, and a spectacular waterfall.

On October 26, the Children's Book Press hosted a neighborhood party to celebrate the new space, featuring Aztec incantations, and readings by Francisco X. Alarcón and Lucha Corpi. Author Jorge Argueta also read from his new work, *Una Película en mi Almohada* (A Movie in my Pillow).

The Press' community involvement extends beyond their new Mission digs, though. Since 1975, they've donated books to city classrooms, and a year ago developed LitLinks, a program that connects authors to students in San Francisco, Texas, Los Angeles and East Oakland.

Children's Book Press Family Saturdays brings authors and illustrators to local libraries for two-hour writing and art workshops. The SF Public Library's Mission branch will host the next two events: November 18 will feature painting with Mira Reisberg, and Carmen Lomas Garza will demonstrate *papel picado* (cut-paper art) on December 9.

Looking ahead, the staff is very optimistic about their new location. "It makes sense that we're in the Mission, because this is the community we're serving," says Freidus, who adds, "Here, I can always look around and remember why I'm doing the work I'm doing."

Of the move, Rohmer says "It really feels like coming home. Right now, things are so difficult in the Mission and in San Francisco generally. We hope to be an example of something good that can come into the neighborhood."

For more information about Children's Book Press, call (415) 821-3080 or visit their website at www.cbookpress.org.

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Guest Opinion

Gideon Kramer

I received quite a few responses to my article "What is Gentrification?" in the October issue. All were from Mission residents, both owners and renters, and universally supportive of the article's message. It is important that readers understand that Mission residents are not only those that shout the loudest, but also comprises many people (like me) working very hard, but quietly, to make the Mission a better place for all. Below is a sampling of the responses

Gone too far

I appreciated your comments. I feel that many Mission activists have lost sight of the problems that have existed in our neighborhood for many years. I appreciate their efforts in bringing attention to issues such as illegal evictions, live/work loopholes, etc., but I feel they have gone too far in targeting any change as bad. There seems to be an underlying message that anyone who is not homeless, an SRO resident, soon to be evicted, Latino or part of a nonprofit is part of the problem.

I have been involved in the North Mission Neighborhood Association for some time and always thought diversity was what the Mission took pride in. I now feel that activists have created a bigger gap between have and have-nots. I do not feel that activist groups speak for me when they shout slogans and throw paint on buildings. Instead, let's find a way for the dot.coms to contribute and have a positive impact on our community.

-Mission resident

A good thing

Great article! It is nice to hear positive things from a long-time resident and property owner. We bought our place in the Mission in 1999 and are working very hard to rid the neighborhood of drugs, prostitution, trash, and graffiti. I get tired of hearing about how we are adversely affecting the neighborhood with very little praise or acknowledgment for the positive contributions we are making.

-Terri Mead

Look what we've done

We bought our house in the Mission in 1976. We have 3 rental units and our own unit. Like you, we've spent a lot of time, money, and labor getting our neglected building into decent condition. We've survived some very incompetent tenants, and the years when prospective tenants would hang up when I told them where we were located. We're getting better tenants now.

I've always tried to keep the place in such condition that tenants want to stay. Unfortunately, rent control now means that having satisfied tenants is economically disadvantageous. All my units are rented considerably under market.

A lot of the buildings in the Mission are well over 100 years old. If people want to preserve these charming buildings and the current scale of the neighborhood, then laws have to be such that people can buy them with some prospect of making money, even after the expense of fixing them up.

Nothing stays the same. I wish our activists would concentrate on trying to

extract benefits for the community from our new popularity, such as, demanding that new companies provide training and hire people who already live in the Mission.

-David Brownell

Buying In

Our group, Tenants for Homeownership, is comprised of mostly tenants and some TIC owners fighting to stop Prop. N. I've been a Mission resident since 1988 and have lived in SF since 1976. I now have a chance to buy into my 4-unit building as a TIC partner. We must defeat Prop. N! It's the last chance people of modest means have to become homeowners. Thanks again for your insightful and articulate article.

-Cindy Arnold (co-founder, Tenants for Homeownership)

Preachy weeklies

I tend to shy away from the various weekly papers since they are a little too self-righteous. I see article after article about social injustices, sadly next to a cigarette ads or dial-a-hooker services. Your article hit the nail on the head. I lived in NYC for 7 years before moving to San Francisco. The East Village and Lower East Side have been undergoing some of the change that you described, and the reaction has been similar. San Francisco has taken it a step further in that the media makes no attempt to punch holes through the flimsy arguments and sob stories they cite. If anything, SF journalists are fans themselves of these various causes, making these groups sound like they support and represent more people than they actually do.

-Name withheld by request

Signs for out times

A year ago, I bought a run-down multi-unit Mission Victorian with three other people. I had saved my money for 7 years. The owner of the building was dying and needed the money ASAP to fund treatment in Europe. The purchase was lightning fast. None of us work for dot.coms. But we are white. And we are now white homeowners, which makes us the subjects of "justifiable hate" - just as, I'm sure, others have spewed hate towards blacks and Latinos when they moved into unwanted neighborhoods.

I am writing to tell you two things. First, the level of hostility and animosity around us. Second, to share an anecdote or two.

Since moving in, we have painted and planted and beautified our street. It has been repeatedly vandalized. Hate posters are everywhere. Our supervisors seem to be on their side. I wonder if SF supervisors in the 50s sided with the Irish and Germans when they vandalized the homes of Latinos moving into the Mission. Perhaps whites in positions of power condoned hate then.

A neighbor bought a new VW, the preferred car of the technology employee. In his window, he's placed a sign: "ARTIST, NOT A DOT.COM! Mission Resident for 6 Years."

Last week, a live/work building at 9th and Mission was torched by arson. Is this okay? Where do our newspapers stand on violence as a means of combating the frenzy they have created? Who among them will apologize for the hate they create?

-Name withheld by request

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Los Cenzontles perform at this year's Encuentro Del Canto Popular.

Music, Politics and Nueva Canción

By Joe Donohoe

On Friday, December 1, and Saturday, December 2, at 7pm, Encuentro del Canto Popular will once again feature politically minded artists performing socially conscious music at the Korinthas Community Center at 245 Valencia Street during *Encuentro 2000*.

Encuentro del Canto Popular ("Encounters with Popular Music") has been a music festival celebrated in San Francisco since 1981. Originally organized by Acción Latina as a fund raiser for journalism majors enrolled at New College of California's Mission District campus, Encuentro has become an international event attracting performers from all over Latin America and the US to the Bay Area.

Nina Menéndez, one of the festival's organizers, said this year's Encuentro will focus on the displacement of the Latino community from the Mission because of the mass evictions of working class Latinos families, non-profits and small businesses in the last three years. In addition to displacement and concern over the destruction of Hispanic heritage, such as the callous painting over of historic murals and the general removal of all things Latin American, as if "voracious" developers wanted to remove all traces of Latin American culture in the Mission, Menéndez said, "We want to celebrate the legacy of Latin American musical heritage."

Acción Latina, whose programs are aimed specifically at low-income Latinos and Latinas, was one of the non-profits evicted from the Bay View Bank Building on 22nd and Mission. The community service organization also publishes the Mission neighborhood newspaper, *El Tecolote*.

Part of the inspiration for Encuentro del Canto Popular came from the revolutionary messages of the music form known as Nueva Canción ("New Song"). Nueva Canción enjoyed popularity in the 60's, 70's and 80's all over the Western Hemisphere. The musical style features themes of socialist revolution and national liberation. One of the most famous singer/songwriters of the popular genre was Chile's Victor Jara, who was martyred by the death squads of General Augusto Pinochet for his outspoken socialist beliefs during a violent 1973 CIA backed coup against the government of Salvador Allende.

Latin America's musical legacy and the current popular musical genres it enjoys cover a broad range. Underlying many of these forms is a spirit of resistance and rebellion, qualities important to a community of many generations fighting for its survival in today's dot.com dominated world. Organizers say that spirit will be alive and kicking at Encuentro 2000.

Acción Latina will continue their tradition of offering affordable ticket prices, making Encuentro 2000 an accessible musical venue to the whole community. The festival's musical fare will range from Nueva Canción to hip-hop, rock en español, salsa and other genres. Featured artists will include Dr. Loco & the Rockin' Jalapeño Band, Los Mocosos and Los Cenzontles. Various community service groups will also be on hand with information tables, keeping social awareness at the forefront of this popular music festival.

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Your property owner is responsible for providing heat, insulation for the walls and windows and effective and adequate protection in the roof to combat cold and rain.

If you have mold, mildew or leaks, your landlord has to make repairs as soon as possible.

If you aren't currently receiving these or other housing services and you want assistance obtaining repairs in your apartment, contact one of the agencies below. These organizations can help you learn how to defend yourself from a landlord who does not keep up with repairs.

If you live in the Mission or if you are a monolingual Spanish speaker, contact:
St. Peter's Housing Committee
474 Valencia St. (at 16th) 487-9203
Spanish speakers available

If you live in Chinatown, contact:
Chinatown CDC
1525 Grant Avenue 984-1459
Cantonese and Mandarin speakers available

If you live in an SRO hotel in the Tenderloin or South of Market, contact:
Tenderloin Housing Clinic
126 Hyde St. (at Golden Gate) 771-9850
Vietnamese speakers available

If you live anywhere else in the city, contact:
Housing Rights Committee of S.F.
427 So. Van Ness Ave (at 15th) 703-8644



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- Make sure the heat is on and the pilot light is lit.
- Respond to your tenants' notification of a heating problem and fix it within 48 hours.

For further information, assistance, or if you cannot gain entry to a unit, please call the San Francisco Apartment Association at 255-2288.

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Ahora que viene la lluvia y el frio, mucha de la gente de la Mision sufre porque los duenos no mantienen bien sus edificios. Debe saber Usted que todos los inquilinos tienen el derecho de vivir bajo mejores condiciones.

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Si no recibe esos o otros servicios requisitos y quiere hacer algo para que repare su edificio el propietario, el Comite de Vivienda San Pedro le puede asistir. Ayudamos a los inquilinos escribir una carta para exigir a su propietario que haga las reparaciones necesarias.

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Library Lady



Mission Branch

Dear Library Lady:

I heard the Mission Library has videos. Is that true? How much does it cost to rent them?

Videophile

Dear videophile:

Yes, the library has videos and you can borrow them for free!

The Children's Room has non-fiction and fiction videos in English and Spanish. While many of the non-fiction videos may be about a certain topic, the following are examples of our instructional videos: **Learning Multiplication, The Alphabet Train, I Can Go Potty! and Chess for Kids**

The videos in the Spanish section are either made in Spanish or dubbed in Spanish. The following Spanish non-fiction videos illustrate the wide range of topics covered: **Time, Money, & Measurement, Aprendiendo a Sumar + Aprendiendo a Deletrear y Lanzando Para Niños.**

Our fiction collection includes movies, cartoons, and videos based on books such as **Walt Disney's The Fox and the Hound, How To Eat Fried Worms, and The Muppet Christmas Carol.** Meanwhile, **Babe, Matilda, and Whistle for Willie** are dubbed in Spanish.

We also have videos in English and Spanish in the Adult Collection. Examples of our non-fiction English videos are as follows: **Eyes on the Prize, Latin Dancing: Intermediate and Malcolm X: His Own Story As It Really Happened**

Classics as well as more recent films, such as **Selena, Sunset Boulevard, and Face/Off,** make up the English fiction video collection.

Our Spanish non-fiction collection includes instructional videos as well as videos on a variety of subjects: **Como Hacerse Ciudadano de los Estados Unidos y Lo Mejor de la Fiesta Charra.**

Spanish fiction videos are either in Spanish, have Spanish subtitles, or have been dubbed in Spanish. We also have titles from the "Golden Age" of cinema. Some examples are: **Enamorada (Maria Félix), Like Water For Chocolate and (English subtitles), My Best Friend's Wedding (Spanish subtitles).**

We also have small video collections in the Chinese, Teen, and Career sections.

Other San Francisco Public Libraries have videos that you can borrow too. You can return them to any San Francisco Public Library but you must borrow videos from the library that owns them. Videos are due back in 7 days; return them on time to avoid fines. Otherwise, borrowing videos is free! Make sure to use all your library's free services!

Happy Reading!, Library Lady

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PARTY

Mark your calendar. The Mission Library will be hosting its annual Children's Holiday Party on Wednesday, December 6, 2000 at 6:30 p.m. Join us for refreshments, fun, and holiday spirit.

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Anote en su calendario esta fecha. La Biblioteca de la Misión celebra su Fiesta de Diciembre Para Niños el miércoles, 6 de diciembre, 2000 a las 6:30 p.m. Venga a celebrar con refrescos, alegría, y compañerismo.

You can send a question directly to Library Lady, c/o The New Mission News, 777 Valencia Street, San Francisco, CA 94110, or feel free to email her at Librarylady@sfppl.lib.ca.us

Health Matters



Richard Pitt

How essential is the Flu Vaccine?

The fall is with us, the weather is changing, and children are back at school. Now is the time when people are being told to get their flu jab. Last year, I wrote an article about the flu vaccine. I questioned the tendency for many people to get the vaccine and the motives of those companies whose only interest in vaccination was, perhaps, reducing the number of days off work for their employees. In last year's article I also questioned the safety of the vaccine itself and this is what I want to focus on now.

Tedd Koren, DC, who maintains a newsletter called , sent information for this article to me via email. In the newsletter Koren quotes Dr. Hugh Fudenberg, MD, regarding flu vaccination. Dr. Fudenberg's statements were part of a speech he gave in September 1997 at the NVIC International Vaccine Conference in Arlington, Virginia.

A connection between Alzheimer's and Flu Vaccine?

This is what Koren sent: "According to Hugh Fudenberg, MD, the world's leading immunogeneticist and 13th most quot-

ed biologist of our times, if an individual has had five consecutive flu shots between 1970 and 1980 (the years studied), his or her chances of getting Alzheimer's Disease is ten times higher than if they had one, two or no shots. I asked Dr. Fudenberg why this was so and he said it was due to the Mercury and Aluminum that is in every flu shot (and most childhood shots). The gradual mercury and aluminum buildup in the brain causes cognitive dysfunction. Is that why Alzheimer's is expected to quadruple?"

Now, as flu shots are becoming routine maintenance for many people, the validity of Dr. Fudenberg's research needs to be taken seriously. The fact is, we don't know much about the effects of the flu vaccine because, until now, no serious long-term studies have been done. As with all vaccines, the potential benefits need to be weighed against the risks and for most people, the effects of getting the flu are not going to be that serious.

However, the effectiveness of the flu vaccine itself is questionable. So, consider all of the information available to you and think about all the possibilities before hastening to get that needle jab the next time it is offered to you.

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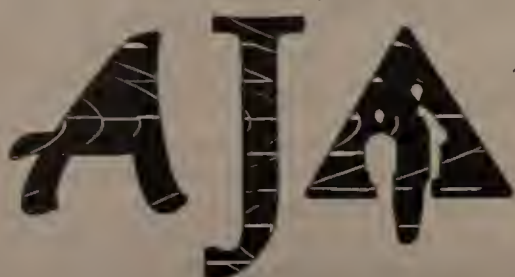
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Not very far from the maddening crowd

By Jane Anne Doherty

The sudden sprouting of new restaurants along Valencia Street is rapidly proving to be almost too much of a good thing for those of us who live near them. If I'd like to take you to one of the hot spots I adore living amidst, you must remember: don't drive here on weekends. Don't even come by to pick me up if we're going to your part of town on a Friday or Saturday night - I'll meet you there. There is so much nightlife crammed along Valencia Street from 16th to 24th, parking, nay; driving around here is very, very difficult on the weekends.

Well, I have some news for you. At the corner of 26th and Valencia, Café Argüello is serving some wonderful Spanish food in a lovely, quiet, and not (yet) crowded setting. You can actually speak to you companions and be heard. Owner-Manager Martha Argüello has done the interior in soothing shades of aqua and peach. The chairs are big and handsome mahogany pieces like the tables. The lighting is soft, the flowers are fresh and the smells emanating from the kitchen are mouth-watering. The kitchen is tucked behind a small bar where you can have leisurely sangria, or perhaps order some tapas.

What a difference a couple of blocks makes!

It's called a café, but Argüello's is definitely a restaurant, and a great choice for dinner in the Mission, without having to wait in line. Argüello's is just a few blocks off, but worlds apart and different from the Valencia hubbub. There's definitely a European ambience at Argüello's: one feels as if welcomed into Martha's personal space and feels like a guest.

She will probably be there to seat you and a moment later a basket of bread with a wonderful dipping sauce made from a red pepper and garlic puree appears on the table. The sauce is wonderful (must be low fat) and there's no trouble about seconds.

As you look over the menu, pay particular attention to the *paella*, which is considered the national dish of Spain. The

word *paella*, which is Catalan in origin, is the name of the shallow pan in which flavorful rice is cooked with an assortment of meats, seafood and vegetables. So the pan and the food in it are both *paella*.

At Argüello's, there are three to choose from, a vegetarian, a meatless, and the super classic *Paella Valencia*, which, if you're omnivores, can keep two people very busy for quite a lengthy meal discovering the many treasures atop the saffron scented rice. *Paella Valencia* offers chicken, pork, chorizo, calamari (rings and bodies), clams and mussels on the shell, shrimp, peas, red pepper strips and who knows what else. The broth is delicate and complex at the same time.

About the tapas

No Spanish restaurant would be complete without tapas. Traditionally, small plates of tasty morsels were placed on *tapa* (so to speak) the drinks when served. It's bar food in a way, and though some are too delicious to resist, consider sharing because all the portions are generous at Argüello's. Among my favorites are a red snapper *ceviche*, and a dish called *escalivada*, which is roasted peppers, eggplant and seasonal other goodies in a sweet vinaigrette. A couple of those can make a great meal for the born-to-buffet types.

Café Argüello is a very well kept secret and one that's not going to last very long. On a recent visit, the managers from two other well-known Spanish restaurants were at the bar comparing (perhaps the size of their tapas). We didn't eavesdrop, of course.

Tapas range from \$4 to \$6. For two big eaters, the *paellas* are \$23 with meat and \$16 for the vegetarian. Other entrees are moderately priced. There's a lot to be checked out at Argüello's and it's location is near enough to be part of Valencia Street's 'restaurant row', yet far away enough to be quiet, sophisticated and available.

Café Argüello is located at 1499 Valencia @ 26th Street. Open 5pm to 10pm, closed Mondays. Wheelchair accessible. Credit cards and reservations accepted. (415) 643-3160.

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Espresso Bravo Cafe and Pasta House has lots of space. Photo by ve miller

Cafe Espresso Bravo goes Italian and gets it just right

I'm accustomed to having my morning coffee in the form of a the ferocious depth charge at Cafe Espresso Bravo. An awesome dose of caffeine, a window seat view and a little escape from reality accomplished by reading the *Chronicle* gets my day going. One recent morning, The Barber of Seville was piped over the sound system instead of Tracy Chapman. and I knew change was in the wind.

When the breakfast menu expanded from pastries and bagels to include pancakes, eggs and a selection of daily specials, and then on to lunch, it seemed a natural progression. But last month's morph into Pasta House may have been a bit too quantum of a leap. Italian cooking takes a sure and acute sense of sauces. Could an establishment make the transition from breakfast goodies, like *Bunnies in a Hole*, to the intricacies of *Spaghetti Primavera* seamlessly? It would appear so.

When Cathy and I arrived for our first evening meal at CEB Pasta House, we found the same friendly and prompt service that characterizes it's AM operation. Regular patrons of this popular cafe will, as we did, have trouble at first accepting the restaurant aspect of the place. It looks just like our cozy, neighborhood cafe. Hey it is our cozy neighborhood cafe! Of course the tables in the back are fancier, the walls are decorated with historical photos and the lighting is subdued but I can still see my morning spot across the room.

Others may have had the same trouble thinking of CEB Pasta House as a dinner destination, which is all the better for us who have because there's no problem with lines or reservations and the food is great and incredibly inexpensive.

There are fourteen dinner entrees and all are humongous and served piping hot, just the thing to take away the damp chill of impending winter and, for light eaters, a choice of three salads.

I ordered the *Salsiccia*, spaghetti with lots of hot Italian sausage, a creamy tomato sauce with just the right proportion of garlic. As a longtime opponent of the California Cuisine theory of cute but skimpy servings, I am happy to report that my entree was sufficient for the heartiest of appetites, nor will those with the more discriminating of palates be disappointed, it was delicious. CEB Pasta House may have gone upscale cuisine-wise but certainly not price-wise, the tab for this was just \$8.50.

For vegetarians, there are several choices including *Funghi*; fettuccine with a mushroom, garlic, white wine, olive and

olive oil sauce, (For strict teetotalers the staff will obligingly leave out the white wine.) and *Primavera*; spaghetti with garlic and vegetables in tomato sauce, both for just \$5.95 each. Fresh ingredients in well blended sauces are what make these two dishes standout selections. But the consensus of opinion of those who sampled the pleasures of the new Pasta House is that the *Alfredo*; farfalle with chicken breasts and mushrooms in a cream sauce, rocks. Alfredo sauce is always a rich and guilty indulgence, even more so in this savory item that includes whole chicken breasts. (\$8.50).

So far the evening scene here remains undiscovered (a situation that's bound to change) so, there's not a mob of folks anxiously eyeing your table. After the meal, the relaxed atmosphere allows one to kick back with a nice wine or one of the many beers on tap. Unlike some of the other great Mission eateries, tables are not pushed up practically next to one another, giving the impression of a log camp cookhouse with the equivalent amount of noise. CEB Pasta House is roomy and relatively quiet. Something we all need.

Cafe Espresso Bravo and Pasta House is located at 663 Valencia and open Sunday through Thursday until 10pm, and Friday and Saturday until midnight. Breakfast and lunch is served from 7am to 3pm, and dinner from 5 to 10pm. call 863-7755.

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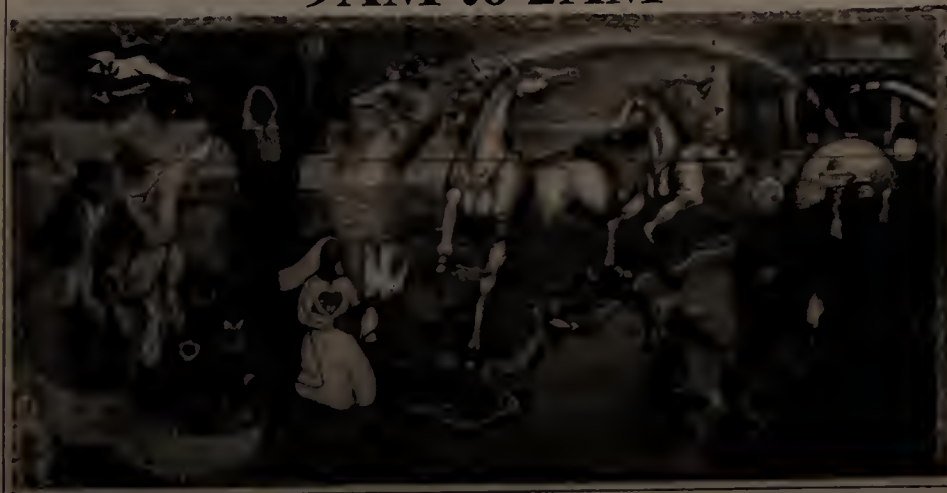
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NEIGHBORHOOD BEAT

edited by Tio Yeye



Film Arts Festival

With so many of the Mission's artists facing imminent eviction, it's encouraging to see so many of them still around, and so well represented in the 16th Annual Film Arts Festival of Independent Cinema which runs November 1-5 at the Castro Theater, Roxie Cinema and Asian Art Museum in Golden Gate Park.

The festival opens at the Castro on November 1, with a special benefit preview screening of *Blind Spot: Women Who Murder* by Allie Light and Irving Saraf. *Blind Spot* consists of a series of direct one-on-one interviews with women who delivered the ultimate hurt (in most cases to the man that done them wrong). Tickets are \$8. If you're feeling especially generous toward the Film Arts Foundation you can attend a \$40 Opening Night Benefit Reception which follows, otherwise you can satisfy your indie cinema Jones for a mere \$8-a-pop at the Roxie. Of the seventy films listed in the program, 19 are by those who identify themselves as Mission residents. This includes the anarchist lean-

ing Whispered Media who will screen *Eviction Free Zone* and *The Pie's the Limit*, the latter dealing with the fine art of political pastry heaving.

For a slice of the historical pie, *Seven Sisters: A Kentucky Portrait* by Mission based filmmaker Patrick Donohew should do nicely. This ninety-minute documentary tells the story of seven sisters who grew up the hard way - during the Depression in rural West Liberty, Kentucky. They all migrate to Lexington, encountering the farm to city turmoil and anguish such a change involves. This septrich oral history which spans 75 years also carries a killer Appalachian Mountain music soundtrack. Another Mission resident, Kara Herold gives us the 20-minute *Grrly Show*, a look at the world of girl-zines and girl-zine makers. Obviously the festival offers a lot of variety.

For a full schedule go to www.filmarts.org. For ticket information call 552-FILM.



Marshall School "Dreamers"

Fifty-two third graders at Marshall Elementary School have been selected to receive scholarship awards of up to \$10,000 per year towards their future college education. The students were selected after an exhaustive process by the I Have A Dream Foundation (IHAD) which provides mentoring, tutoring and field trips to schools around the country.

"In addition to researching data on San Francisco's Unified School District including graduation rates, scores on stan-

dardized tests and the percentage of children receiving free or subsidized lunches, we traced feeder patterns to middle schools and high schools. We hoped to select a school where children were likely to stay together as a cohesive group through high school," said IHAD board member Tanya Capuano.

It's much more than providing college tuition, it's making sure the students get there said Scott Parlee co-founder of the San Francisco IHAD board.

IHAD was founded in 1981 by New York businessman Eugene Lang, who on a visit to his former elementary school was told many of the students would not go on to college. Lang promised 61 of the children at that school he would pay their college tuition if they finished high school. Lang also helped those kids all through the intervening years. Ninety percent graduated from high school and 60 percent went to college. From this first effort IHAD evolved. Since then has created over 160

projects in 26 states and 57 cities serving 10,000 young people.

On October 12, the 52 new Dreamers (pictured above) gathered with Marshall School faculty, parents and IHAD representatives for the official celebratory launch of the San Francisco IHAD Program. "This brings a sense of 'We are college bound' to our school community," said Marshall principal David Celoria.



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Local theater can be hit and miss but when, as it is more often than not, it's hit you can find yourself trying unsuccessfully to get seats for a sold out performance. Then there are those times when great stuff is happening all at once and seeing every thing you want can run into some big bucks, especially if you factor in the cost some fine dining at one of the local hot spots. Designed to deal with these difficult cultural dilemmas is the Culture Card an affordable way to get both good seats and stylish eats.

The Culture card offers discounted tickets for nine local theaters ODC Theater, Brava, Intersection for the Arts, Theatre Rhinoceros, Thick Description, A Traveling Jewish Theatre, Theatre of Yugen, Theatre Artaud and The Marsh, who have formed the Neighborhood Theater Initiative (NTI). It's a simple cred-

it/debit card, pre-purchased for \$70 that can be swiped at any NTI venue and used for five shows - a 40 to 60% off the regular price. The Culture Card can also be "recharged" after five performances.

If a show is sold out, participating theaters have agreed to reserve 5% of their seating for cardholders until thirty minutes before the performance. As for dinner, Culture Card holders will receive discounts at some of the Mission's better restaurants including: Foreign Cinema, Pinxtos, Cafe Argüello, The Rooster, Cha-Cha-Cha, 3-Ring, Los Jarritos, La Traviata, Charanga, Baobab, Manivanh Thai, and Luna Park. An automatic 20% discount comes with any meal at these establishments between 5-7pm.

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Letters to the Editor

Lazy and easy
Editor,

As a long time bilingual, bicultural resident of the Mission District, I am sorely disappointed with the lack of coverage given to the candidates running for Supervisor District 9. It is easy and lazy reporting to go along with the candidate running who has name recognition and lots of money. The other candidates especially the local candidates of color like Valerie Tulier, Maria Martinez and Lucretia Bermudez do not have the funding machine for TV time, newspaper advertisement, radio spots and only limited resources for materials, thus the media

courts the candidate with the most money. Is this the democratic way?

We used to expect at least the local community newspapers to cover our candidates of color with interviews photos etc., now even when you are called repeatedly for possible interviews, or when covering events where these candidates appear, you only show the one candidate with money. For example Valerie Tulier is a local Latina who is a viable alternative for our community. She attended local schools (Horace Mann, Mission High, San Francisco State, and New College Law School), has been a dedicated activist, and has been a volunteer in local non-profit organizations. She has voluntarily participated with many youth programs in the Mission, and has worked with women and girls in agencies such as the Commission on the Status of Women and the YWCA Mission Girls program. She has participated in the anti-displacement rallies, attended candidates nights, and local public events, etc., yet is never mentioned in your news coverage of candidates. How can our voters have informed choices when the media exempts coverage of all but the most moneyed candidates?

Valerie Tulier is also running a most unique campaign; she has a circle of local working women advisors and volunteers. Since there are no funds with which to pay staff, these women spend their scarce resources and time so our community can have an alternative to big money from city hall - so the voiceless can have a voice. She proposes having local forums with parent organizations, local non-profits, union members, child-care centers, elder communities, to connect directly with the needs of the people. She is also known for her collaborative consensus building leadership and has worked successfully with diverse groups such as immigrants, Cuban solidarity organizations, the indigenous people's local and international struggles, and others.

How can you justify ignoring such an important voice of the people?

A disappointed reader,
Dr. Febe Portillo

O is OK
Editor,

Want to save San Francisco's greatest asset: our diverse neighborhoods? Then vote "YES" on Proposition O, the Ethics commission's campaign finance reform measure on the November ballot. Prop O will make our city officials listen to the voters. Currently, they only listen to developers and other special interests because of the huge campaign contributions.

Prop O will decrease the influence of those who make big contributions in three ways: 1) by limiting contributions to committees that make soft money expenditures to \$500; 2) by providing partial public financing to qualified candidates for the Board of Supervisors; and 3) by forcing these soft money committees to disclose who the real donors are.

The best way to preserve diversity in San Francisco is to implement campaign finance reform. Vote "YES" on Prop O!

Michael A. Mooney

Yes On L
Editor,

As we go to the polls on November 7, we should remember that we need both bread and roses. Only if Prop L passes can we rest assured that the mariachi bands will still make music in the Mission; that flamenco dancers will continue to snap and swirl in their gorgeous costumes and that Aztecs' drumbeat will keep our feet

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Sincerely, Lee Heller

Pyrogyra

Editor,

Have you been to Burning Man? Have you been on any of the email lists regarding Burning Man? Has Silicon Satan? The issues there are mainly about rebar, art/poetry events, and shade structures (pre-Burning Man), and community and memories (post-Burning Man).

It seems that those on the outside looking in need to attach SOME centralized agenda to those that organize Burning Man. Given who attends and what goes on there, does one suppose REALLY that anyone organizing these folks at this event could possibly have or achieve anything more of an agenda than to provide an open forum for just BEING?

So my question to Silicon Satan is this: WHAT are you so damn afraid of?

Rene Soreco

No on N

Editor,

We are writing to urge your readers to VOTE NO on Prop. N. My husband and I worked for years to afford a home in San Francisco, without family help or stock-options. The idea of buying in one of the most expensive markets in the U.S. was a difficult challenge to realize. We entered the market as TIC owners with another couple, the ONLY way we could afford to do so.

Prop. N misguides voters and cripples renters close to affording homes by taking affordable housing off the market. This is not a renter-friendly proposition, but a way to make the rich even richer and keep many hard-working renters from ever becoming home owners.

Prop. N will: * Increase Ellis act evictions * Create shortages of affordable housing * Drive up housing costs across the city, dooming many tenants to a lifetime of renting. * Drive up taxes on exist-

ing homeowners * Reduce diversity by making San Francisco a city for only the rich * Deny first-time buyers a piece of the American dream * Prevent tenants from achieving the tax benefits of home ownership * Prevent current TIC owners from ever being able to sell their units.

We would also like to point out that: * The net gain in housing -- 874 units, is a 21% increase over the net gain in 1997. * New construction held steady at 909 units; in 1996, 1997, and 1998, almost identical numbers of units were produced. * Fewer housing units were demolished. Demolitions decreased 84% from 1997.

Stephanie Wade
Jeff Breidenbach

Can you spare some change?

Editor,

As the developer of the Best Foods site (now Mariposa Square), I read with interest the article by M. Toby Levine on the planning history of the Mission. Perhaps a little history needs to be reviewed in the midst of the current controversy over development in our neighborhood.

Best Foods established their operation here in the early 1920's. They shut down operations (which employed about 150

people) in 1987 after a fire broke out in the factory that refined vegetable oil for margarine. Why did they shut down instead of repairing the problem?

For some years prior to this incident, they had been the target of complaints and harassment by the artists from Project Artaud who had moved in to their facility around 1980. The artist residents complained continually about the smell, noise and railroad traffic. The protest after the fire was the last straw. The artists drove the industry out of town.

Talk about gentrification! As M. Toby Levine poignantly asks, "But whom do you blame/ Whom do you target?" This is simply dancing around the issue. Change is constant. Unless we rationally adapt to change, we will be overwhelmed by it.

Who do you blame? Why don't we start with the 'neighborhood activists' who resist reasoned and rational change in the name of preservation. In Guest Opinion column What is Gentrification, your guest columnist, Gideon Kramer, hit the nail on the head. The effect of resisting all reasonable development is only to speed gentrification by making competition for existing property of all types that much more fierce.

Such is the law of unintended consequences. Instead of resisting change, this community should embrace it and work with the City and developers as to how the various interests can be included. We do not live in a time warp.

Very truly yours,
Curtis Eisenberger
President, Mariposa Management



Keeping up with New York and Texas

You might not think New Yorkers and Texans are much alike. Tall buildings, fast-paced living and pastrami on rye on the one hand; wide-open spaces, cowboy boots and barbecue on the other. But, residents of the Empire State and the Lone Star State do have one thing in common: they're likely paying less than you are for long-distance calls.

Increased competition in the telephone markets in New York and Texas is bringing consumers lower prices, better service and new, innovative offerings. Telecommunications companies are fighting to win customers who want the full range of services — local and long-distance calling, Internet, wireless and more.

Why New York and Texas? In both states, the local Bell telephone company has been approved to enter the long-distance marketplace. Approved first by state regulators and then by the Federal Communications Commission, Bell Atlantic in New York and Southwestern Bell in Texas have emerged as full-service providers, competing for long-distance customers against companies like AT&T and WorldCom.

The results were immediate. Long-distance prices fell overnight as established providers scrambled to meet the low prices offered by Bell. The same companies rushed to match the newcomer's offering of simple, easy-to-understand calling plans with no monthly minimums or hidden charges. And residential customers and small businesses — once ignored by the long-distance giants for being too small — found themselves sorting through competing offers for local telephone service.

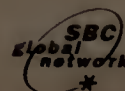
Californians can expect the same savings and expanded choices when Pacific Bell is allowed to compete in the long-distance marketplace here. The California Public Utilities Commission is in the final stages of reviewing Pacific Bell's long-distance application and is expected to issue a decision later this year.

California's local telephone marketplace is already more competitive than New York's or Texas'. More than 260 companies are authorized to provide local and long-distance telephone service in the state, and more customers get their local service from a competing carrier than in any other state.

California customers are entitled to increased competition in the long-distance market, and are ready for the savings, service and innovations Texans and New Yorkers already enjoy.

Zoon Nguyen
Zoon Nguyen
Director
External Affairs

PACIFIC BELL



For more information on this and other telecommunications issues, visit www.projectconnectcalifornia.org.

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POEMS OF THE MONTH

edited by La huerfana

Dot This

Back in the day
I was taught to dot my i's and cross my t's
Today some body is dotting my i's
and crossing me out

Dot com, dot, dot, dot, dot
Connect the dots what do you got
Another community eaten by dot coms

Dot this sucker
Dot com culture
Lost without a computer

No human touch
Don't want to think too much
Just want a piece of this dot com boom

Teleology mixing with humanity
Machine and man
Can't pretend, humans will loose in the end

Dot, dot, dot, dot
My mind is not mine
Hypnotize to believe this lie

Dot this
The digital divide
Two worlds living separte lives

Eyes on the stock market
Guns drawn, reaching for a wallet
Lives are gone and our minds are locked

in the closet
Dot this
Y2K virus, HIV virus
Humans and computers are getting sick

Dot, dot, dot, dot
Computer language mixing with ebonics
Getting paid on how many hits the web
makes each day

The enemy has no face
TV screen, computer screen
God I just want to scream

Dot coms eating all the electricity
Got the fastest modem and Internet TV
PG&E is life or death to many

Voice mail and Email
ATM and the home Shopping Channel
Give me a human being please

Back in the day I used to dot my i's
Today my eyes see nothing but dots
Dot com, dot culture, dot community, dot
human

Dot, dot, dot, dot.....
I bet you can't dot this!

Leroy Moore Jr. © 2000

*Leroy F. Moore Jr. Celebrates his birthday,
November 18, 8pm at Cafe La Boheme
with a book release party. See Calendar,
Page 18.*

About Autumn

In the sunset moments
Ocean waves dance in peace
Close to city scenes

Autumn gold lightness
In fading sunrays
My body suppresses these times
Feeling earthly love of nature

Lifting veils changing
Into broken fish nets
Disappearing among plants in sand dunes
the sea smiles while surfing
Body pains sink to rest
Feeling new love for Autumn dark nights

Sounds of pouring wine
Of sacred grass in pipes
Somewhere along the hours

Holy plants moaning
In flute notes glories

A hard grasp harmony
When creation
Is melting apart

Maritsananda © 2000

Cumulative time versus repetitive time
always looses
Linaer path versus cyclical path
remains lost

Destinies challenge journeys
Maps confuse alphabets
heaven and earth differ in degree
but not kind

The question is perhaps the oldest sure thing
That is to say through the movement
of people and ideas
the changing forces of fate

If we spoke one language
we still would not
eliminate misunderstanding
if we shared one culture
we still would not eliminate uncertainty
if we held a single vision
we still would not
see everything
only dreams eternal
only love eternal
and the process of questioning

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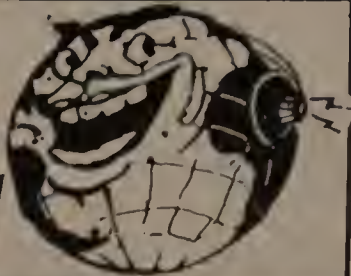
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From Africa to Hawaii



OCEAN BLUES

Historians and Ethnomusicologists have searched for years for the origins of the Blues. Samuel Charters went to Gambia in West Africa while researching his book "The Roots of the Blues" and discovered that its lineage, like that of African-Americans, is a thread that is not easy to follow.

When Malian guitarist Ali Farka Toure first toured in the U.K. in the late '80s folk aficionados thought they had discovered living proof of the origin of the blues. Later, while discussing his influences, which were primarily the varied traditional music of Mali, he mentioned that he was a great fan of John Lee Hooker. Although disappointed that they could not put him in a museum display as a blues roots man, his neo-traditional Malian music was given honorary status as African Blues.

In the diverse musical legacy of Mali, a cultural center for many ancient empires including the Manding and Songhai, one finds minor pentatonic scales and micro-tonal singing that are characteristics of the blues. But the twelve bar basic blues structure is nowhere to be seen. So, one can see an historical thread and surmise that some musical aspects from Manding music made their way through the middle passage of the slave trade and influenced the Blues.

Blues artist Taj Mahal was aware of the historical connections when he recorded a record with African harp (21 stringed instrument called kora) player Toumani Diabate and some of Mali's finest traditional musicians. Their record entitled Kulanjan explores the connections and highlights some of the differences. Tonality and textures mix well, but at times the blues vocals run roughshod over the subtleties of the African playing. Perhaps it works better conceptually than in execution- as Ali Farka Toure commented after recording with Taj Mahal, "he still has a lot to learn."

Along similar lines is a new record called Ocean Blues by Bob Brozman and Djeli Musa Diawara. Californian Brozman is a noted guitarist who specializes in old-time blues, Hawaiian slack-key guitar, and old calypso while Diawara is one of the greatest traditional Manding musicians- a virtuoso kora player and superb singer. The two combine in a string player's delight; acoustic nylon strings and sliding steel blend, meeting somewhere between Africa and Hawaii on a warm Caribbean isle. Instrumental passages alternate with Brozman's low bluesy vocals and Diawara's higher Arabic-tinged voice. The recording showcases two great talents who are obviously at ease playing together.

Happening this month

On the Cuban front November will be a stellar month in the Bay Area. The P-Funk of Salsa (see review of their latest record in last month's New Mission News), David Calzado & Charanga Habanera make their first Bay Area appearances playing Nov. 10 at Roccapulco (Mission St., San Francisco), Nov. 11 at Palookaville in Santa Cruz, Nov. 12 at La Peña in Berkeley, and Nov. 17 at Coconut Grove in Santa Cruz. Although this is essentially a different group of musicians than those who conquered Cuba in the late '90s, word is they too put on an incendiary show.

Also coming to La Peña (3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley): Nov. 6 - Bamboleo, one of Cuba's top Timba bands, Nov 18 - John Santos & Machete Ensemble, Afro-Caribbean Jazz, and Nov 19 - Maraca y Otra Vision, Afro-Cuban Jazz direct from Havana, Cuba. Meanwhile, Salsa Thursdays continue at the Elbo Room (647 Valencia St.): Nov 2- Jesús Diaz y su QBA, Salsa/Timba \$6, Nov 9 - Azabache, Salsa \$6, Nov 16 - Mazacote, Salsa \$6, Nov 23 - Thanksgiving, Closed, Nov 30 - Charanzon, Salsa & Charanga \$6. Doors open at 10 P.M. with DJ BabaLoup.

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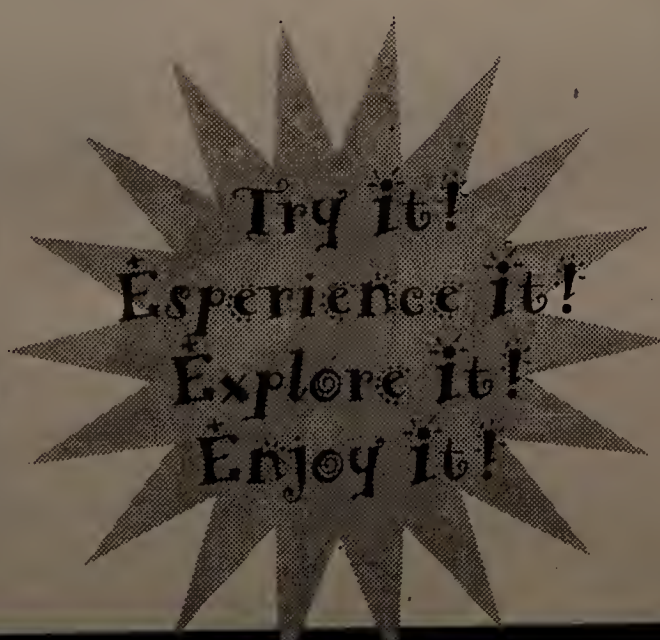
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